

Kohl, Gorbachev hold talks

MOSCOW (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met Saturday with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to try to resume Kremlin leaders that a reunited Germany would not threaten Soviet security. Kohl flew to Moscow earlier in the day for one of a series of high-level consultations with East and West officials about German reunification. He met for 2½ hours with Gorbachev, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi L. Gerasimov told a news conference. The West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, also held talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. Gorbachev said, Shevardnadze said a news conference before the West German officials arrived in the Soviet capital that one of the key issues to be discussed was the need for a German guarantee of stable borders. Both West Germany and East Germany are bound by treaties to respect the current borders of Europe, but a united Germany is not committed to those terms. Conservatives in West Germany have suggested that reunification should be sought within the 1937 borders, which include areas in the Soviet Union as well as large parts of present-day Poland.

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Queen in Aswan

ASWAN, Egypt (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor arrived here Saturday evening to attend meetings of the International Committee for the revival of the Alexandria Library. Mrs. Sezzane Mubarak, wife of the Egyptian president, received the Queen. Senator Laila Shamsi is accompanying the Queen.

Shihan licensed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday licensed the Cyprus-based Shihan weekly tabloid to be issued from Amman as a "political and social" magazine. The weekly was established in 1984. In its regular weekly session the Cabinet also named Rashid Al Rashid as secretary general for the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. It also decided to send a delegation to Cairo to represent Jordan at a meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

Ghazali in S. Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Ghazali arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday on a tour that has also taken him to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. SPA gave few details but the Omani News Agency said Ghazali was discussing the current fighting in Lebanon and how Arab states could end it.

Egyptian MP produces knife in parliament, resigns

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian member of parliament produced a knife in the assembly Saturday, offered it President Hosni Mubarak as a weapon to fight corruption, then resigned, parliamentary sources said. They said Ahmad Fouad Shetia of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) stood up in parliament and urged Mubarak, who is also chairman of the NDP, to introduce an anti-corruption law. "Allow me to offer a present to President Mubarak," Shetia said, taking out a knife hidden in his clothes. "I offer this knife to Mubarak to use it in fighting widespread corruption in Egypt." Shetia then announced his resignation and left the house, the sources said. He gave no reasons for his action.

UAE president visits Egypt today

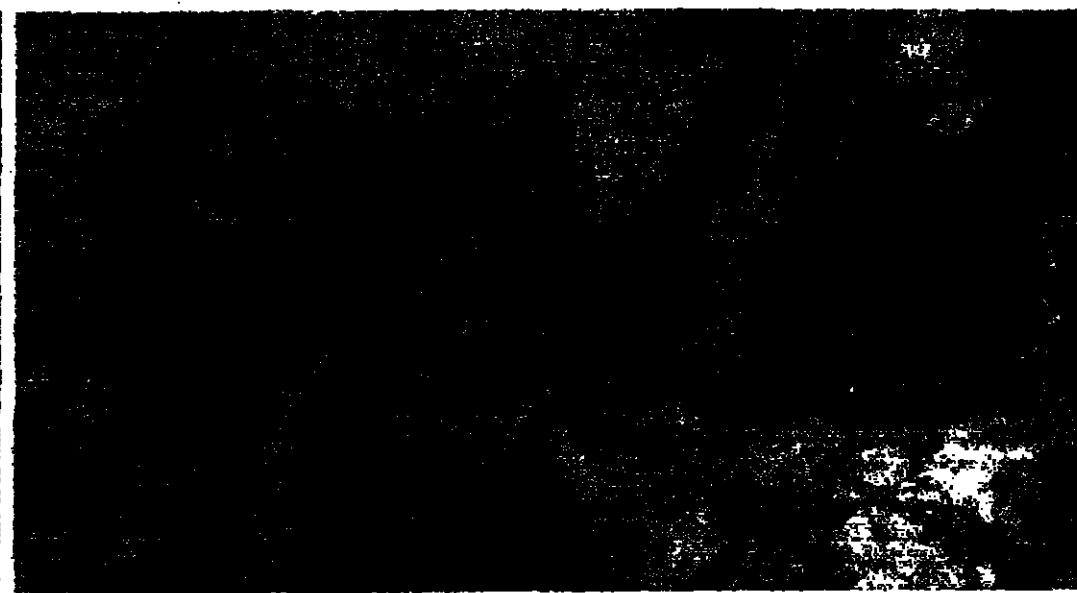
ABU DHABI (R) — The president of the United Arab Emirates, (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, will start an official visit to Egypt Sunday, the Emirates news agency WAM reported. It did not say how long he would stay.

India sees no need for war

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — India's foreign minister said Saturday he believed a third war with Pakistan over Kashmir could be averted. "I don't think there's a need for war," External Affairs Minister Inderjit Prasad told reporters of a three-week-old crisis in relations with neighbouring Pakistan. He was speaking as Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said in Islamabad: "We do not want war and we do not want to create a war psychosis." Bhutto added that opting for peace did not mean abandoning support for the "right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination."

Video shop set ablaze in Assiut

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested 11 suspects in an arson attack by Muslim militants on a video shop in the central town of Assiut, security sources said Saturday. They quoted Christian shopowner Sarwat Halim Habib as saying masked militants brandishing knives stormed the premises on Friday night, splashed petrol on the floor and set it alight. Muslim hardliners, who want Egypt transformed into an Islamic state, regard videos, theatres and cinemas as improper forms of entertainment.



Children gather around a Palestinian home destroyed by the Israeli army in the occupied Gaza Strip

W. Bank, Gaza sealed off on eve of Communist anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israeli troops sealed off major towns in the occupied West Bank Saturday and clamped curfews on parts of the Gaza Strip as Palestinians celebrated the eighth anniversary of the outlawed Palestine Communist Party.

A Palestinian wounded by army fire Friday night died of his wounds, bringing to at least 622 the toll of Palestinians killed by Israelis in the 29-month-old uprising against occupation.

Troops in the occupied Gaza Strip shot and wounded four teenage protesters in various clashes, hospitals reported.

In Gaza City, where Israeli forces fired tear gas at Communist supporters marching with the Palestinian flag, stone-throwers injured a para-military border policeman.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said his colleagues severely clubbed two Palestinian youths. The city's Abil Hospital said it was treating two badly beaten teenagers.

Curfews were imposed on the city's Sabra and Zeitoun neighborhoods for operational reasons, the army said.

The West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarm and Bethlehem had been declared closed military zones "because of suspicions of possible planned unrest there," according to an army spokesman.

In Ramallah, where Communist support is high, residents of the town centre — among them a Reuters correspondent — were confined to their homes until further notice.

Large numbers of police patrolled the streets of Arab Jerusalem and lined the ramparts of the walled old city.

The West Bank village of Qabatyia remained under a curfew imposed after a clash Friday in which troops shot dead two villagers and wounded at least seven, residents said.

Local hospital staff said 40-year-old Abu Ali Suleiman died Saturday from an army bullet in the head. Abdul Khader Ikmal, 19, died Friday, shortly after troops shot him in the abdomen, they said.

Arafat welcomes EC steps

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday welcomed the European Community's latest measures against Israel and said they showed the intifada was winning support for the Palestinian cause.

In a message to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark the start of the 27th month of the uprising, he said: "The escalation of the intifada, coupled with our firm and active political stance, adds new assets daily in favour of the cause of our people."

"In recent weeks... Europe has taken progressive positions by increasing its support for our cause and deciding to freeze numerous cooperation agreements with Israel."

The PLO and the Palestinian embassy in Cairo are cooperating with Egyptian security bodies over the assault," Saeed Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, told Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA).

His remarks were in apparent response to harsh criticism by Ibrahim Saada, editor of the mass circulation weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Yom, of the PLO's reaction to the attack.

Nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed and 19 others wounded in the raid near Cairo Sunday.

Saada said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should have flown to Cairo as soon as he heard news of the attack "to announce his own and his people's condemnation of this criminal act."

The PLO condemned the assault in a brief item on the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Kamal condemned the assault as an attempt to scuttle peace efforts and accused unnamed "Israeli quarters" of helping the attackers smuggle their weapons into Egypt.

He cited a report in Saturday's edition of the semi-official newspaper Al Ahran that the grenades used by the assailants were U.S.-made and that Israel was the only country in the Middle East to have them.

According to Al Ahran, the bus attack was plotted inside Israel or the occupied territories. Al Ahran said the grenades used in the attack were U.S.-made and "this type of grenade is not available in any Middle East country except Israel," said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed official of the Interior Ministry which is responsible for internal security, for the report. Published reports have pointed steadily to a Palestinian connection.

Crown Prince: World should be made aware of illegitimacy of settlements

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday warned against the increasing Soviet Jewish influx to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and said that the primary task at this time was to highlight the illegitimacy of settling Jews in the occupied territories.

In an interview broadcast by British radio, the Crown Prince stressed that any Israeli attempt to settle Jewish Jews in the occupied territories "will allow the forces of conflict and eviction to become the sign of our times."

The Crown Prince said that demography was the "main issue of the hour and it is a legal issue

which has to be reassessed in all international forums, especially on the level of the United Nations."

"This will allow (the world) to be convinced that Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories should be rejected in its essence and is illegal," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince posed a question to the United Nations: "Twenty years after U.N. Resolution 242 was endorsed what has been done to implement it in practice?"

"This resolution stipulates that occupying lands of others by force is illegal and it also stresses the illegitimacy of settlement in

the occupied territories," he said. Prince Hassan added that if the issue was to be simplified it could be summarised in that "many of the countries look today to the idea of peaceful solution as the remedy to all hot regional issues, especially confrontational issues in the region."

"Many of these countries sometimes forget that there are foundations to reaching this called-for peaceful solution, such as respecting U.N. resolutions which called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories."

"Then we would reach an international peace conference which would guarantee the needs and demands of the Arab Palesti-

nian people in self-determination on their land," he said. "We honestly feel that the Middle East issue has become a side interest to many countries."

Prince Hassan called on the major powers of the world to shoulder their responsibility in respecting the various human rights, including the human rights of the Palestinian people. "We are addressing the international conscience and the superpowers to find human solutions to the issues of human rights in the world but not at the expense of the oldest cause in the world... the cause of Palestinian self-determination," the Crown Prince said.

Badran defends interest on loans for development

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will support a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the implications of Soviet Jewish immigration to the Israeli-occupied territories, Prime Minister Mudar Badran told reporters Saturday.

The premier was answering a question on Jordan's position towards reports from the U.N. of opposition among members of the Security Council to Soviet Jewish immigration and speculation among Arab diplomats there that the problem could become an issue in the council.

"I wish your house will form an economic and financial committee to calculate the interest we pay over 20 years and it will find that we do not pay any interest at all," Badran told the House.

The premier's statement came in response to Muslim Brotherhood deputies' arguments against approving three development loans from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia carrying a nominal annual interest of 4.5 per cent.

"We are not dealing in silver or gold which do not change prices; we are dealing in banknotes which fluctuate in value according to their foreign exchange rates," Badran said.

He added that loans were the only means to acquiring foreign currency in Jordan adding that he "wished there was someone in the world (who) would give us a loan without interest."

He explained that most of the Kingdom's loans were for development project and not commercial borrowings. "If you want to stop these loans, there will be no more development in this country," he said.

The alternative to accepting loans with interest, according to Badran, will be allowing the lending country to acquire shares in the related project.

"We have shared some of our projects with some countries and they took 20 per cent of the project," Badran said. The government was then blamed for "letting go" of such a large portion of a successful project, he said.

"All these projects are extremely successful and very profitable and they cover their own loans," the prime minister said.

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Lower House calls for revival of 'Eastern Front'

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday called on the leaders of Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to unite their efforts in face of Israeli threats.

"We call on the Arab leaders to unite as leaders and work on our unity as people and land in face of our one enemy Israel," Jerash Deputy Hussein Mujalli said in his proposal to the House to send telegrams to the four leaders.

"Let us adopt a united Arab national position... not contradictory regional positions," Mujalli said in his proposal.

The Lower House voted Saturday in favour of the proposal but the text of the telegrams was not written during Saturday's session.

In essence, the proposal is for the revival of a 33-year-old "Eastern Front" concept. The idea was initiated in 1956 by Jordan, Syria and Egypt but was never implemented because of the tripartite attack on Egypt by France, Britain and Israel.

The idea was revived after the 1967 war and the Eastern Front was then formed by Jordan, Syria and Iraq with its headquarters in Sweden in Syria and was headed

by an Iraqi officer. The Eastern Front fell apart in 1973 because of Arab differences.

The House also adopted a proposal tabled by several deputies to send a message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd condemning the assassination of two Saudi diplomats in Thailand earlier this month.

The two proposals came at the end of Saturday's regular session during which a number of deputies presented the House with "pressing issues" which they felt needed immediate attention.

Most of the 21 deputies discussed the recent Ministry of Labour

dictory regional positions," Mujalli said in his proposal.

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Dugmi explains toxic waste disposal; Jardaneh reveals rents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Kareem Dugmi told the Lower House of Parliament Saturday that Jordan has many chemical waste plants and Minister of Finance Basal Jardaneh told the House that his ministry pays JD 175,000 annual rent for the building it occupies. Both ministers were answering deputies' questions.

In a reply to a question by deputy Nagef Abu Tach (South Bedouins district) about the disposal of chemical waste in the country, Dugmi said Jordan has several plants that produce chemical waste. But he did not go into specifics.

He said that uncontrolled disposal of this waste "threatens the ecological elements and is a danger to public health."

He said that since mid-1980 many committees were formed to find suitable methods of disposal and sites for this purpose.

Many sites were chosen only to be dropped later because of their proximity to populated areas, the minister said. One site was abandoned because it lay next to military training field, he said.

The minister said at last a site was chosen, 38 kilometres northeast of Swaga south of Amman. He said geological studies proved the site was not conducive to seeping of the waste into ground

water.

Dugmi outlined producers for the use of the dump site and said that many other procedures had yet to be adopted and applied.

He said moving the site to the east was not possible as required by Abu Tayyeh. "Moving east would endanger Azraq and Sirhan water basins, to the south would get close to military zones, and west and north would infringe on bedouin areas," Dugmi explained.

Dugmi concluded by saying that dry batteries used by households and disposed of recklessly contain toxic material and that his

Mutiny in Aoun ranks amid continuing battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival forces battled with artillery and machine guns in Beirut Saturday, violating a shaky ceasefire in a 12-day-old power struggle, while rioting corpses lay in the sniper-infested streets.

A radio station reported a mutiny among rebel General Michel Aoun's 19,000 troops as they and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia commanded by Samir Geagea appeared to be gearing for another round of fighting.

Hundreds of civilians fled the Christian enclave north of Beirut seeking refuge in other regions.

A police spokesman said the situation in the Christian enclave "does not indicate that the ceasefire is going to hold."

The two sides clashed during the night and early morning with machine guns in several combat-districts of east Beirut. Snipers duelled constantly as they clashed for 90 minutes of heavy shelling.

The police spokesman said three people were killed and four wounded in the shelling before it subsided into intermittent exchanges around 10 a.m. (0800 GMT).

By police count, at least 433 people have been killed and 1,684 wounded, most of them civilians, since the battle for control of the enclave broke out Jan. 30.

Military sources said Lebanese Forces militiamen were putting up strong resistance to an assault by Aoun's troops on three ridges

northeast of Beirut which command the LF strongholds of Keserwan and Jounieh port.

In Beirut itself, the rivals traded heavy tank, artillery and mortar fire, sending white smoke billowing over the capital.

The 10,000-man LF and Aoun's 15,000 troops agreed the latest ceasefire Thursday after pro-Syrian militiamen built up their forces around the Christian enclave.

Military sources said the army, which began its offensive at dawn, was making heavy going against LF positions in the hilltop villages of Klaiat, Rayfoun and Ajaltoun, some 18 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The Voice of Lebanon, mouthpiece of the anti-Aoun Falange

Party, broadcast a statement by Colonel Paul Faris announcing the mutiny in the general's army.

Faris declared the creation of the "Neutral Army Forces" with headquarters in the coastal town of Amshet north of Beirut; which is controlled by Geagea's forces.

He called on "fellow soldiers... to refuse Aoun's orders and immediately join the ranks of the Neutral Army Forces. Leave Aoun's army now before it's too late."

Addressing the 54-year-old Aoun, Faris said: "You are a criminal general... responsible for all the massacres being committed against your people. The least you deserve is execution by a firing squad."

Lebanese flee to safety during lull in fighting

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Nearly 500 refugees fleeing the fighting in Lebanon on Saturday arrived in Larnaca Saturday aboard a ferry, the first to reach Lebanon in a week, and one said: "It was hell."

The blue and white Sunny Boat steamed into Larnaca on the south coast of Cyprus after a nine-hour, 160-kilometre overnight voyage from Jounieh, 17 kilometres north of Beirut.

It sailed for the embattled Christian enclave Friday after a shaky ceasefire was declared between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Despite the truce, both sides clashed Saturday and one of two British government officials aboard the ferry noted: "It's far from over yet."

Many of the refugees came from Christian districts of east Beirut like Ashrafieh, which have been the scene of fierce battles since the fighting erupted on Jan. 30.

Many had huddled in basements and bomb shelters for days and used the ceasefire to make a run for it to Jounieh.

"It's been terrible with all the fighting that's raged around us," said Hala Habashi, a middle-aged Christian woman accompanied by two teenage children.

"It was hell," lamented Nawaz Ephraim, 19, who was accompanying his mother and two younger sisters.

"It was very dangerous during the fighting. Gammun moved from house to house during the street fighting. They took no

notice of the people living in the houses," he said.

"Sometimes they used the presence of non-combatants in the houses as cover," Ephraim noted.

A black-haired young mother with a girl of about three years old in her lap sat crying softly as she waited at the Cypriot immigration desk for her passport to be stamped.

She refused to speak. But a friend said she had been separated from her husband and 10-year-old baby during the fighting.

"We don't know if they're alive or dead," the friend told reporters.

A distraught middle-aged woman with a heavily bandaged foot limped off the ferry and her husband, who declined to be identified, said she had been wounded in the fighting.

"It was very bad in Ashrafieh," said Alfred Heykal, a Christian businessman accompanied by his wife and two frightened little girls clutching dolls tightly.

After sheltering in a basement for days "we decided to take advantage of the ceasefire to drive to Jounieh yesterday," Heykal said.

"But there was no ceasefire. There was shooting all the way and it was very frightening. It's wonderful to be here, safe," he

said. The two British officials declined to give their names, but said they had been on an official visit to the British embassy in Beirut.

"The Lebanese have done some terrible things before, but this must be the most terrible ever," one said of the savage indiscriminate bloodletting in which more than 400 people have been killed.

"The damage in Dbyeh is quite extraordinary," he added, referring to the coastal town north of Beirut that Aoun's forces wrested from the Lebanese Forces in hand-to-hand fighting a week ago.

Jounieh itself, held by the Lebanese Forces, appeared to have escaped heavy damage, apart from the military barracks and nearby buildings in the port area, the British official added.

He said that he and his companion had to drive to Jounieh from Beirut by a circuitous route over the mountains because the main coastal highway has been cut by the fighting.

"There are rival checkpoints everywhere," he added.

Efstathios Efsthion, a Cypriot officer aboard the Larnaca-based Sunny Boat, said the ferry had not come under fire when it slipped into Jounieh.

"But just before we sailed from Jounieh we saw a small boat that had just left the port being shelled as it sped toward Beirut," he said.

They were told the boat belonged to the Lebanese Forces and was heading for Beirut with supplies for units isolated there since the capture of Dbyeh, Efsthion said.

72 senators oppose aid cuts to Egypt, Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Seventy-three senators have written President George Bush to oppose any cuts in aid for Israel and Egypt, the largest recipients of U.S. assistance.

"In the Middle East, we should reaffirm the support of the United States for upholding our foreign assistance commitments to Israel and Egypt," the senators said in a letter organised by Sen. Pete Wilson, a Republican, and Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat.

The Senators' letter, delivered to the White House Wednesday but not publicly released until Friday, was written in reaction to proposals — first advanced by Senate minority leader Bob Dole — to trim aid to Israel, Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines and Pakistan. Those countries received about 80 per cent of the total U.S. foreign aid budget.

Dole said reducing money for the five countries by 5 per cent would generate more money for other countries, namely those in Eastern Europe.

Bush administration officials have called for more flexibility in dividing up the foreign-aid pie.

The Bush budget for fiscal 1991 totals about \$14 billion. Traditionally, Israel receives about \$3 billion annually from the United States, with Egypt receiving about \$2.3 billion.

The 73 senators said they want to see the United States "reinforce the democratic trends in the nations of Eastern Europe."

"Budgetary realities force us to make difficult choices, but retrenching on our commitment to assistance to Israel and Egypt would not be a wise choice," they wrote.

Soviet flights to Israel

Meanwhile more than 60 senators, including majority leader George Mitchell and Dole, have urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to implement a Dec. 6, 1989 agreement between the Israeli and Soviet airlines to transport Soviet Jews to Israel.

In a letter dated Feb. 5, the senators explained that the agreement "to advance air transport and aerial services...between Soviet and Israeli points directly"

was scheduled for implementation on Jan. 1, but that "as of this day, no actions related to the agreement have been taken."

The senators said they have been assured that "all aspects of authorisation for the Soviet Jewish emigration to leave for Israel already have been arranged," including exit visas, money for transit and airline tickets. In spite of that, the Israeli mission that conducted the negotiation has been informed that "approval for implementation must come from the 'political level' of the Soviet Union."

Kuwait, Oman to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration

MUSCAT (AP) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, arrived Saturday for three days of consultations with Sultan Qaboos on efforts to curb Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and other issues.

The Oman News Agency said the Emir, accompanied by a delegation including his foreign and finance ministers, was greeted at the airport by Sultan Qaboos as a 21-gun salute boomed out.

Official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the issue of the expected flood of Soviet Jews to Israel in the next few years was one of the top priorities in the two leaders' talks.

Sultan Qaboos is the current chairman of the 6-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which also includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The Emir is currently chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), an umbrella organisation for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

In a recent message, the Emir castigated both the Soviet Union as well as the United States for allowing the Jewish emigration to Israel.

There has been a furor in the Arab and Islamic World since

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said earlier this month that he expected hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

These areas, seized by Israel in 1967, roughly encompass the Palestinian state proclaimed by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestine parliament, in 1988.

The expected exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel follows Moscow's loosening of emigration restrictions, and the tightening of U.S. immigration laws.

The Arabs are angry that the United States, which has traditional close links with the GCC countries, has restricted entry visas for Soviet Jews at a time when the Soviets have opened their doors.

The Kuwaiti and Omani rulers also head GCC efforts to break the deadlock in peace talks between Iran and Iraq following the August 1988 United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The officials said that Sheikh Jaber and Sultan Qaboos will discuss joint economic projects and ways to boost trade.

Oil exports are the backbone of the GCC countries' economies and all six are working to diversify and form a common market.

Sister launches new bid to free Lebanon hostage

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Peggy Say, whose brother Terry Anderson is the Western hostage held longest in Lebanon, has said she will meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in an effort to win his release.

She said she also hopes to see President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union and Iranian leaders. Anderson and most of the 17 other Western captives in Lebanon are believed held by Shi'ite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran.

During a three-week tour of Europe and the Middle East, Mrs. Say will confer with Pope John Paul II, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie and leaders of the Red Cross, human rights organisations and other groups.

On the eve of her fourth trip to the Middle East, she told a news conference: "I've come back empty-handed before and I fear I may do so again."

Mrs. Say spoke to reporters after meeting with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. She said she was convinced the United Nations and President Bush were working for the release of her brother, who is chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press and was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

The Bush administration appears to care more about the hostages than the Reagan administration, which she had criticised for inaction, Mrs. Say told the news conference. She added that U.S. "policy is dictated by the American people and, frankly, the American people don't care about the hostages."

She and her husband, David, were expected to leave Saturday with an AP delegation in hopes of gaining news of her brother, who is one of eight Americans among the hostages.

Mrs. Say, of Kentucky, will also visit U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Director Federico Mayor in Paris and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria in Damascus.

She said she hoped to see Gorbachev and that better U.S.-Soviet relations and the improved international climate are positive factors for the hostages.

"This is a time of freedom around the world," she said. "The hostages have suffered enough."

Iranian officials have not responded to efforts to arrange a meeting. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, believed to be an umbrella group for Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers, refused to meet with the group outside Lebanon.

Mrs. Say said a visit to Iran would be very important and expressed hope that release of the hostages would be part of an overall improvement in U.S.-Iranian relations.

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Sudan frees 33 former politicians

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military government has released from jail 33 former politicians, including the leader of the disbanded Communist Party, the official news agency reported Saturday.

Like leaders of other political parties, Communist Mohammad Ibrahim Nurgud was put under house arrest, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

He was the last to be released of the political party heads when the military overthrew Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi's civilian government on June 30 and banned parties.

The news agency said the latest releases occurred Friday. It said the 33 put under house arrest with Nurgud included former-Energy Minister Bashir Omar

and Abdul Rasoul Al Nour, former governor of Kordofan region. Both were prominent members of Mahdi's Umma Party.

Nurgud and the others were released "in pursuit of the revolution's efforts to unite the internal front and its belief in eventual national unity, which is a major pillar of national salvation," the agency said.

The number of political detainees remaining in jail is not known.

Meanwhile Zaire is emerging as chief mediator in Sudan's civil war amid signs that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is reluctant to continue peace efforts.

They said any peace talks between Khartoum's military junta and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) were likely to

be held in Zaire under the auspices of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), has in recent months become increasingly frustrated at the slow pace of negotiations, they added.

Two rounds of talks between the SPLA and the junta, which seized power last June, have collapsed. The two sides recently resumed fighting in southern Sudan.

Several junta members have recently said the third round of peace talks would be held in Cairo under Mubarak's auspices.

But state Radio Omdurman said Saturday that Mubarak had asked Mobutu to mediate in the Sudanese conflict.

Eritrean rebels capture Massawa

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rebels in Ethiopia's northern province Eritrea said they captured the strategic Red Sea Port Massawa Saturday after launching a major offensive two days ago.

"The entire town is under the control of the EPLF," Yemane Gabre Meskel, a spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) told Reuters by telephone from London.

"We received the news about an hour ago, but have no more details for the time being," he added.

The offensive, begun Thursday along a front said by the rebels to be 200 kilometres long, ended a nearly year-long lull in fighting in the region and plunged all four of Ethiopia's northern provinces back into the throes of civil war.

It also jeopardised plans by the United Nations to provide relief food in the next few months for an estimated 4 million drought victims in northern Ethiopia, mostly in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

The attack by the EPLF came as the government appeared to be containing another offensive

farther south by the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a separate insurgent group.

In an unusually quick acknowledgement, the government in Addis Ababa confirmed the new outbreak of fighting in Eritrea in a statement Friday night. A government radio station in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, said the battle was still raging Saturday.

The government said the new fighting "has now dimmed the prospects of resolving the Eritrean problem through the stalled peace talks" and accused the rebels of "using the peace talks as a subterfuge to prepare extensively for this destructive war."

The government and Eritrean rebels conducted preliminary peace talks in Nairobi, Kenya, late last year with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter as a mediator. They had agreed to resume negotiations early this year.

The government said the Eritrean rebels' main objective appeared to be the capture of Massawa, the largest of only two ports on Ethiopia's Red Sea coast. The other is at Asab, near the coun-

try's border with Djibouti.

In a clandestine radio broadcast, the rebels said earlier that they had taken control of the road from Asmara to Massawa, about 60 kilometres northeast of the provincial capital, in what they described as "a crushing offensive."

"The operation was very broad and swift and the victory very great," said the Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea.

The Tigrean rebels, based in the province just south of Eritrea, launched their own offensive last August, pushing government troops out of their last remaining strongholds in Tigre and sweeping south and east into the provinces of Wollo and Gondar.

The government declared a mass mobilisation in September and in a counterthrust that began in January recaptured some of the towns and garrisons taken earlier by the Tigrean insurgents.

Although their aims are different, the Eritrean and Tigrean rebels have coordinated attacks against the government in the past.

Afghan rebels seek military victory

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Muslim rebels said Saturday the only route to peace in Afghanistan after 11 years of civil war was on the battlefield — not through the negotiating table.

"A military victory is our only option," said Suleiman Shah, a spokesman for a joint rebel news agency called Media. "Unless we make progress militarily we won't get any concessions from the Russians or convince our American supporters to stay with us."

Another rebel spokesman, Sader Nassery, said the guerrillas, known as Mujahadeen, would never negotiate with Afghan President Najibullah.

"We are ready to talk to the Soviet Union, but only on the condition that they offer us an agenda before the meetings," he said.

Moscow has reportedly been sending military and humanitarian shipments worth about \$300 million a month to its Communist allies in Kabul.

Last February, the Kremlin withdrew the last of its combat troops from Afghanistan after nine years of military intervention.

Some Western analysts predicted a quick rebel victory following the Soviet troop withdrawal.

But a year later, the government forces remain in control of Afghanistan's cities and the rebels, who are largely financed by the United States, control large chunks of the countryside.

"Why should the Russians want to negotiate?" Shah asked.

"They think their Communists are in a better position than when they left and there have been no steady military gains by the Mujahadeen," he said.

"There won't be any political victory without military success," Shah said.

The winter months are militarily slow because waist-deep snow clogs the rugged mountain paths that link Afghanistan to Pakistan, where the Muslim guerrillas are based.

Shah said the United States has promised the rebels a large infusion of weapons sometime in the spring in preparation for the start of the summer fighting season.

"The Americans have promised the weapons, but you can't always rely on those promises," he said.

U.S. Jewish leaders favour land-for-peace

By Wolf Blitzer
Jerusalem Post

WASHINGTON — A national survey of American Jewish leaders shows that a decisive 76 per cent would favour Israel's trading land on the West Bank and Gaza Strip for "credible guarantees" of Arab peace.

Only 16 per cent of the 780 Jewish leaders polled would oppose the notion of territorial compromise, with the remaining 8 per cent expressing uncertainty.

The survey, funded by the Israel-Diaspora Institute, a Tel Aviv public policy "think tank," is the most exhaustive sampling to date of opinion among American Jewish leaders, including local federation professionals and volunteers, rabbis and synagogue executives and other organisational heads. It was conducted by the Washington office of Market Facts, Inc., under the auspices of Queens College Professor Steven M. Cohen.

On another sensitive point, the Jewish leaders, by an overwhelming majority of 73 per cent to 20 per cent, supported the need for Israel to talk directly to the PLO if it recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

But 78 per cent responded to a separate question by agreeing that the PLO is still determined to destroy Israel.

"What might appear as a contradiction is a practical expression of Jewish leaders' 'Americanism,'" explained Dr. Arye Carmon, president of the Israel-Di-

aspora Institute. "Americans often join the table with their adversaries, but do not necessarily always eat what's served."

On the whole, the poll showed that the American Jewish leaders were more "dovish" on Israel's foreign policy issues than the political leadership in Israel.

Thus, when asked whether Palestinians had a right to a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza if it did not threaten Israel, 53 per cent responded yes, 35 per cent said no, and the rest said they were "not sure."

Asked whether they thought there would be a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza "sooner or later," 51 per cent agreed, 21 per cent disagreed, and the rest were uncertain.

Sixty-three per cent agreed that Israel's continued occupation of the territories "will erode Israel's democratic character," with 29 per cent disagreeing.

On other issues, only 25 per cent of the Jewish leaders thought that American Jews should be involved in Israeli foreign-policy matters, yet 88 per cent supported involvement on non-security-related issues, such as "who is a Jew."

Orthodox leaders in America differed dramatically from their Conservative and Reform colleagues. The Orthodox were far less sympathetic to conciliatory gestures to the Palestinians, to publicly criticising Israel, and to opposing changes in the "who is a Jew" legislation.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Israeli major refuses post in W. Bank

TEL AVIV — An Israeli army major in the reserves has been jailed for refusing to serve in the territories, becoming the highest-ranking soldier to be imprisoned for the offence since the start of the intifada. Zvi Nir was also the 100th soldier to be imprisoned since the start of the uprising for refusing service in the territories. He was sentenced Wednesday to 25 days in jail. Of the 100 soldiers jailed during the uprising, 11 were officers, according to the Yesh Gvul movement. Twenty-two of those imprisoned served more than one jail term. Over 1,600 reserve soldiers have signed a Yesh Gvul petition declaring their refusal to take part in the army's "repressive acts in the territories." — The Jerusalem Post.

Expelled Greek diplomat leaves Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A Greek diplomat ordered out by Turkey in a tit-for-tat expulsion left for Athens Saturday, airport officials said. Elias Kiri, consul-general in Istanbul, returned home after Athens last week told Kemal Gur, Turkey's consul-general in the northern town of Komotini, to leave. Gur had referred to Muslim minority in western Thrace as "fellow countrymen" and "citizens of Turkish origin."

French mediator arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Lucien Bitterlin, head of a pro-Arab French lobbying group who helped negotiate the release of two kidnapped French children in 1983, arrived in Beirut Saturday amid speculation he was on a new mediation mission. Bitterlin drove to mainly Muslim west Beirut from Damascus to meet Defence Minister Albert Mansour, Information Minister Edmond Rizk and Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahoud at the beachside Summerland Hotel. Bitterlin refused to talk to reporters about why he was in Beirut.

Rajavi vows to topple Tehran government

BAGHDAD (R) — The leader of the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalid Massoud Rajavi vowed Saturday to topple the Iranian government and establish democratic rule in Iran. In a message addressed to the Iranian people on the 11th anniversary Sunday of the Islamic Revolution which swept the mullahs to power in Iran, Rajavi said: "As long as (the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah) Khomeini's regime remains in power, there will be no peace, no freedom and no reconstruction in Iran. Corruption, shortages, torture, executions and the export of terrorism will continue."

Pahlavi says he warned U.S. of threat

LONDON (R) — Reza Pahlavi, son of the former Shah of Iran, was quoted Saturday as saying he had passed information to Washington and London of an Iranian plan to attack U.S. targets in Western Europe. Interviewed by the Times newspaper, the former crown prince said he had no doubt Iranian agents were planning an attack next week to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that toppled his father. "In the past the regime in Tehran has found such acts coinciding with the anniversary of the revolution irresistible. The regime has two aims: It wants to intimidate Western governments and it wants to show the people back home that it has not changed its repressive ways," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:00	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:20	Local programme
18:30	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	Variety programme
22:30	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:50	Tel Aviv Tel File
18:15	L'ecole de la faine
18:30	News in French
19:15	Asajoud'En en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:10	Space Flight
22:00	News in English
22:30	Game Set and Match
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:18	(Sunrise) Duha

It will be partly cloudy with slight rise in temperatures and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

	Min./max.	temp.
Amman	4	7/11
Aqaba	9	2/20
Deserts	3	1/13
Jordan Valley	8	1/18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 83 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mudeed Tannous	884-840
Dr. Salah Mings	494-128
Dr. Youssef Rashed	266-301
Dr. Abdul Gader Lala	690-048
Finns pharmacy	661-912
Fedows pharmacy	778-356
Al Asma pharmacy	570-555
Natrichod pharmacy	626-572
Al Salem pharmacy	626-730
Yaroub pharmacy	644-945
Smeissini pharmacy	576-660

Head-on collision over counting hands

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — A vote in the Lower House of Parliament Saturday to postpone discussions of a temporary House committee on defence, security and armed forces sparked controversy over the vote-counting procedure in the House and cast doubt over the credibility of the process.

Speaker Sulaiman Arar announced that 44 deputies voted in favour of a proposal to postpone the discussions for four years, but several deputies and observers later said only 33 or 34 deputies had endorsed the motion.

The vote on the postponement motion, tabled by Deputy Abdullah Ensour, followed a prolonged debate over the committee's exact functions.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran took part in the discussion, and expressed his opposition to what he described as the

House's interference in matters that fall under the government's jurisdiction.

Badran said parliamentary committees must abide by the principle of "separating among the three branches of government" so that one branch does not overlap with another in functions or responsibilities.

The original proposal to set up the defence, security and armed forces committee was made by Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi. Deputy Ata Shahwan proposed several names to serve on the committee, including deputies Youssef Al Atham, Abdul Hafiz Alawi, Fouad Khalafat, Jamal Sarayreh, Abdullah Zarikat, Jamal Haddad, Jamal Khreisha and Mohammad Abu Alcin.

Amman Deputy Fakhri Kassar said Alawi should first define the committee's functions. Zarka Deputy Bassam Haddadin suggested that the committee must deal with "all

matters related to the country's security and defence."

Sarayreh (Karak) said the committee's functions must include "monitoring the country's general defence strategy and looking into all legislation related to military and security personnel and their families."

Alawi endorsed Sarayreh's definition of the committee's duties and the proposal gained majority support in a roll call. After Badran's interjection, and as deputies began another round of discussions of the committee's functions, Deputy Khreisha (Balqa) proposed "postponing the committee" for one year because "the country is safe and there are no pressing security problems."

The proposal was followed by the motion made by Ensour to postpone the committee for four years.

Arar called a vote and Parliament Secretary-General Hani Khair declared that 44 deputies endorsed Ensour's

proposal. Arar announced the results as several deputies, including Haddadin, Mansour Murad, Kassar and Sarayreh contested the outcome of the vote and requested floor time. Arar ignored their calls and moved the House to other topics.

Murad, who finally got permission to speak after his microphone was activated, attacked the speaker for not allowing protests. He told Arar: "I regret having to level negative criticism at your person on the way you conducted the discussion."

Arar told Murad he was deviating from the subject of discussion and ruled that the Amman deputy's statement be deleted from the House's records.

Later, during the afternoon session, the House witnessed a repetition of the vote-counting "discrepancy" over a Finance Committee recommendation to the House that loans to the

Kingdom that come in the form of provisional laws presented by the government be rejected.

According to the first vote count by Khair, 31 deputies endorsed the motion out of 69 deputies who attended the session. Finance Committee rapporteur Abdullah Akayleh strongly protested as "impossible" the results of the count and several deputies shouted that they had counted 41. Arar repeated the count and this time Khair announced 37 in favour out of 68 deputies present and the proposal was endorsed.

In remarks made to the Jordan Times later, deputies contended that during Saturday's session and before was not accurate, and criticised the method used to count votes.

Some of them proposed that more developed vote-counting methods such as electronic boards used in other parliaments be adopted by the House.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Awada (left) in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker (Petra photo).

King receives message from Tokyo

Japan praises Jordan's positive role and efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from the Japanese government expressing Tokyo's appreciation for his positive role in the Middle East peace process and praising his constructive stand.

The message, which was delivered at the Royal Court by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Awada, also stressed Japan's pride in its friendly relations with Jordan.

Awada explained to the King Tokyo's political stand vis-a-vis international developments and its continued support for Jordan's efforts to restore peace and stability to the Middle East region and to settle all conflicts through peaceful means, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

King Hussein voiced pride in Japan's friendship with Jordan and Tokyo's constant support for Arab causes.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama.

Awada held a round of talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and voiced Japan's opposition in principle to the settlement of Jewish immigrants

in occupied Arab lands and urged Israel to accept the idea of exchanging land for peace and enter into a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Japan also encourages continued international pressure on Israel to make it respond to the requirements of just peace, the minister said at the meeting with Qasem, Petra said.

The meeting was dedicated to a review of developments in the Middle East with particular attention given to the immigration question and Japan's stand vis-a-vis these developments, according to Petra.

Qasem pointed to the dangers inherent in the continued influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and its negative effect on the Palestinian people's rights and the stability in the Middle East as a whole.

Qasem also stressed the responsibility of the superpowers among other influential nations, especially those which are concerned with the establishment of permanent peace. The influx of Jews to occupied Palestine is bound to threaten international efforts for a durable peace, Qasem said.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was playing for time and for creating new reali-

ties on the ground with total contradiction of the PLO's peace overtures.

Qasem said Jordan has been shouldering serious responsibility towards the Palestinian people and the Palestine cause. Jordan backs the PLO leadership's positive stand and believes that there can never be a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict without a solution for the Palestine problem with the full participation of the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories so that the Palestinian people can exercise their right to self-determination, the minister stressed.

Qasem also said that Jordan was providing all possible backing for the Palestinian uprising and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Later Saturday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Awada and discussed with him scopes of Japanese-Jordanian cooperation in all fields and means to bolster relations.

Qasem, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general and the Japanese ambassador attended the meeting.

National music committee formed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Khalid Al Karaki yesterday formed the Jordan National Music Committee comprising representatives from the ministries of culture, education, and information as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Yarmouk University, the Jordan Musicians Association, and the Music Academy.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation had proposed the formation of such a committee in order to consolidate achievements attained in the field of developing music, to promote awareness of music in Jordan, and to benefit from the services and expertise of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Council of Music.

Deputies stress need for hospital in Irbid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three members of the Lower House of Parliament have requested that a new hospital be built with the complex of the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid Governorate to meet the growing need for hospital services.

Deputies Ahmad Kofahi, Abdul Rahim Ekour and Kamel Al Omani said in a memorandum to Lower House Speaker Sulaiman Arar that the population in the governorate accounts for 28 per cent of the total population of Jordan; and yet they have only 17 per cent of the total number of hospital beds in the Kingdom.

At present, there are 18 hospital beds for every 10,000 people in the Kingdom, compared with 149 in Sweden, 118 in West Germany, and 39 in Kuwait, the memorandum said. It said that an increase in hospital beds was essential, particularly in Irbid Governorate as referred to by the Ministry of Planning in its national socio-economic development plans (1981-1985 and 1986-1990) and to meet the standards referred in a World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

Since the target now is to increase the number of hospital beds in Jordan to reach 30 beds for every 10,000 citizens by the year 2000, then it will be necessary to acquire at least 3,332 beds in Irbid Governorate alone, the memorandum said.

According to the memorandum, 10,000 surgical operations were conducted for citizens from Irbid Governorate outside their region. This demonstrates the great need for more hospitals, it said.

The projected hospital, the memorandum said, should be called King Abdullah Hospital and should be used as a training hospital for JUST medical students.

The memorandum pointed out that the annual birth rate in Irbid Governorate now stands at four per cent, but the number of children's beds does not exceed 100, and that only 20 maternity units are available in the hospitals in Irbid region.

The memorandum also noted that hospitals in Irbid Governorate lack proper facilities for newborns such as incubators and they lack other essential facilities for treating burns and providing emergency services.

The memorandum proposed that the new hospital have 643 beds in the initial stage.

King, Queen meet British field marshal

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor received at Al Nadwa Palace Saturday the commander of the British Royal Air Force and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal David Craig, and Mrs. Craig.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, the Jordanian Royal Air Force commander, British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve and their wives.

The King hosted a lunch in honour of the guest.

French programmes

King Hussein earlier received at the Royal Court Fouad Ben Halala, director of the French

International Television Channel, who briefed the King on the French channel and its programmes.

Ben Halala has signed an agreement with Jordan Television (JTV) under which JTV will receive four hours of French programmes daily directly beamed from Paris and designed to boost the French language programmes on Jordan Television.

The programmes are being received by Inletel 5-F11 satellite through special facilities recently installed at the television station in Amman. The programmes are being offered to Jordan free of charge. The meeting was attended by Sherif Zeid and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard.

95 physicians get jobs with ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Mohammad Adnab Al Zaben Saturday announced the appointment of 95 male and female physicians in health centres and said that 37 of the new appointees had already taken their jobs.

In a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times, the minister said that this step was taken in conformity with the government's plans to reduce the number of unemployed doctors in Jordan, and at the same time boost health services.

During this year, the Ministry

of Health plans to appoint more doctors to health centres.

The minister made the statement following his opening of a training course for 58 new doctors who will later be assigned to health centres. The four-week training course will orient the doctors on primary health service care, he said.

The new doctors will be oriented on modern trends in mother and child care, birth spacing, health education, environmental health, controlling nutrition and providing essential health services.

Jordan will support move

(Continued from page 1)

stumbling block on the way to peace," Badran said.

U.S. President George Bush, answering questions posed to him by reporters in San Francisco Feb. 7, said by allowing direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, the Kremlin would be sending a sign "that their interest in the Middle East is not just on the side of what heretofore has been the side of the more radical states in the area."

Izzeddine said Saturday it was obvious that the United States was backing Soviet Jewish immigration into Israel and the Soviet Union "is responding to American efforts."

The information minister said the Arabs now have to work on two primary axes: the United States and the Soviet Union.

He explained that the Arabs should make it clear to the Soviet Union that "human rights are not reserved for Soviet citizens but also have a connection with the human rights of the Palestinians, who are now facing a clear violation of their rights."

"The Soviet Jews are coming and taking the place of Palestinians," Izzeddine said.

The United States, which the information minister described as the second axis, "should be made to announce that settlements in the West Bank are illegal" (as against considering them only as an obstacle to peace).

He added that the Arabs should demand of the United States to "make sure that these settlements are not financed by American money."

Dugmi explains waste disposal

(Continued from page 1)

ministry was ready to collect those batteries in collaboration with other concerned authorities.

Ministry buildings, NMI and Alia hospital

Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi put forth three questions:

1. Who owns the Finance Ministry building and with whom were the negotiations about renting the building conducted? How much is the annual rent? Is it exorbitant?

2. Who owns the National Medical Institution (NMI) building and who did the government negotiate the rent of the building? What is its annual rent?

3. Who built the Queen Alia hospital and why did the government purchase it and for how much?

Finance Minister Basil Jaradneh replied that the Finance Ministry building was a complex housing the Customs Department,

the Budget Department, the Land Tax Department, the Free Zones Department, the Pension Fund and the Finance Ministry offices.

The building which houses these departments now is owned by the Middle East Insurance company and was rented for JD 175,000 annually, he said.

The NMI building, Jaradneh said, is owned by the United Trading Company and it was rented with the approval of the then finance minister in accordance with the 1973 law on renting buildings for government use.

According to the minister, the annual rent was JD225,000 but was reduced later to JD 200,000.

The Queen Alia hospital used to be owned by the Jordan Medical Establishment, and was bought by the Armed Forces

The Armed Forces bought the hospital for JD 12,208,247, he said.

Workshop calls for agriculture insurance

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day workshop held here last week has called for applying agricultural insurance in Jordan and for the enactment of special legislation to facilitate the process.

A statement on the recommendations of the workshop, issued Saturday, emphasised that agricultural insurance was an effective and important tool in agricultural development helping to stabilise farmers' incomes, protecting and increasing investments and introducing modern technology to increase output.

The statement said that the private sector in Jordan should shoulder the task of providing agricultural insurance and urged insurance companies in the Kingdom to set up a consortium for this type of service and to re-insure their operations with international insurance companies.

The statement said that local insurance companies could work out a special system for this operation in cooperation with the concerned government institutions.

The statement suggested that the insurance scheme be divided into three main categories — livestock production, agricultural

production in irrigated areas, and population in rain-fed regions — and that agricultural insurance services be applied in degrees and with pilot projects for dairy products and poultry and in the field of producing vegetable crops and wheat.

The statement said such insurance could be expanded in the future to cover livestock, cereals, and fruit in both the irrigated and rain-fed areas.

It said that credit institutions and cooperative societies could serve as a liaison between small farmers and the insurance companies consortium.

The workshop was organised by the ministries of agriculture and planning in cooperation with the West German Technical Cooperation Agency to highlight the need for insurance in view of dangers to crops brought about by natural disasters such as drought, frost, floods, fires, diseases, locusts and others.

Delegates taking part in the workshop came from the ministries of agriculture, planning, and industry and trade, as well as the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

No more free home calls

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Dugmi has cancelled all exemptions on official telephone calls from the residences of mayors, engineers, officials and technicians regardless of the nature of their work as of Sunday, Feb. 11, 1990.

Dugmi told Al Rai and the Jordan Times Saturday that these steps were in line with the implementation of the government's policy of reducing expenditure and saving public funds.

He said that mayors and other

officials can change their telephone into private telephones and pay the normal charges. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs is also taking measures to reduce the use of official cars and a circular has gone out to all municipalities to restrict the use of vehicles only to official business.

Municipalities and village councils should not rent garages for their vehicles and can park them near any police station, the minister said. He said that stiff penalties would be imposed on violators of these instructions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereass, Mezghich, Mouskine, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Alla Annosova, Nabila Hilmal and Nawal Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- A plastic art exhibition by Tawfiq Al Sayed at the Goethe Institute.
- An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Mr's University.

FILMS

- A feature film entitled "Life with Father" at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.
- A Soviet film entitled "The Dangerous Journey" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- A French film entitled "The Big Blue" shown as part of the European film festival at Philadelphia Cinema — 8:00 p.m.

RSS begins testing course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday opened a two-week training course on non-destructive testing (NDT) industrial radiography attended by 19 participants. Engineers and technicians from various ministries, organisations, and private firms in Jordan are participating in the course.

The course, organised by the RSS's Mechanical Design and Technology Centre, will concentrate on industrial radiography testing, personal safety and protection against ionising radiation from industrial radiography.

Hassan Al Khadra, the centre's director, underlined the importance of the course in view of the industrial and construction progress in the Kingdom.

House urges 'Eastern Front'

(Continued from page 1)

move to freeze the issuance of work permits for guest workers in the country and the below average results of the mid-term Tawjihi examination which were announced last week.

While welcoming the Labour Ministry's decision aimed at limiting the number of guest workers in the country as an effort to tackle unemployment, many deputies asked the government to conduct a comprehensive study of the Kingdom's needs before taking action against foreign workers who do not carry work permits.

Minister of Labour Qasem Obaidat explained that statistics indicate that guest workers in the Kingdom were estimated at 230,000 workers but "only 43,000 workers carry work permits."

He later told the Jordan Times that the ministry would not deport any guest worker before the end of this month when the ministry would have completed a study on the loopholes in the local labour market.

Deputies questioned the accuracy of the mid-term Tawjihi examination results and asked the ministry to review sample answer papers to determine whether there might have been some errors.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad

Hamdan explained in detail the process of marking answer papers, stressing that there was no possibility of error but added that he would personally review sample papers.

Deputies also called on the Ministry of Education to extend the registration period for students at universities to accommodate West Bank students who were unable to arrive in Amman in time for registration as well as broaden its acceptance quota for West Bankers.

Many deputies expressed dismay at the government's decision to raise the prices of tea last week without consultation with the House as promised earlier.

Jordan Times

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Adjusting to the changing world

NOW THAT the Communist Party is projected to compete for power within the Soviet Union, it is up to it to succeed or fail in this historic and eventful competition. If it fails it will be the fault of no one except itself. On the other hand, if it triumphs over the other political parties expected to enter the race for power and clout, it will be in no small part due to its inner willingness and ability to reform itself and evolve in the right direction. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was of course right and wise in pushing his own party in the direction of rivalry with other shades of political thought in the Soviet Union. Clearly he has the best interest of the party in mind when he is effectively calling on it to reform and survive or else accept the verdict of history and die a natural death.

To be sure, there is no creed or religion or philosophy which stood the test of time without inner reformation to cope with the ever-changing world. The precedent of Martin Luther's movement in the 16th century is a case in point when it ushered in a massive reformation and the beginning of the enlightenment era in Europe.

How well will the Soviet Communist Party respond to the new challenges posed now at its footsteps would determine the future of communism worldwide.

One of the principal highlights of the 20th century was the advance of communism. It remains to be seen whether its demise would also serve as yet another principal hallmark of the century. In retrospect, and with the benefit of hindsight, communism as an ideology swerved drastically from its true path and incorporated in the process dictatorial tactics that in theory at least are alien to its fundamental tenets. What separates it in theoretical terms at least from socialism which is rampant throughout much of the Western world is a thin line centred more on the degree and extent rather than on the essence. But what divides the two phenomena now in real terms is rather a very wide wall centred on the application of democracy or the lack of it.

But, whatever the outcome of the major political tremors that have hit the Soviet Union, the Vatican of communism, and the rest of Eastern Europe, the world will never be the same again. One thing is sure, communism as the world knows it now is falling as abruptly as it was rising. The remaining pockets of pure and simple communism are also projected to face the same fate one way or another. The principal beneficiary of all these positive and historical changes will of course be mankind which can now breathe more peacefully without the pressures and dures of superpower nuclear warfare. Now it is up to the rest of the world which is in essence outside the ideological framework of the West or the East to reform itself thoroughly and profoundly or else accept to be left behind.

In this vein, the Arab Nation is dutybound to respond to the ever-increasing changes in the world, both intellectually and technologically, in a rational manner. The apparent trend in the Arab World to just regroup without bringing about fundamental changes within their inner selves is simply insufficient and would in the final analysis defeat the purpose. It is high time that the Arab World accept the thesis that much of its ways are still archaic and no match to the emerging new world. To simply convene meetings, conferences and even summits would simply fail to address the substance and heart of the matter.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday said that the time has come for the Arabs to realise that they have no future if they remain divided and failing to reach consensus on unity. The paper said that our age is an age of greater political entities which alone can survive in the 1990s and in the coming century; and therefore, it is incumbent on the Arabs to find a way to unite in the face of the looming threat and the inevitable challenge. The paper noted that the Arab countries have not yet realised the looming serious challenges and cannot form a clear image of the future eventualities and that is why they failed so far to develop their stand and adopt a serious unifying stance. The current series of events in Europe, the imminent unification of Germany, the unity of the European Community countries in 1992 and the East-West detente which leads to further consolidation of relations in Europe are all indicators of the future picture which the Arabs ought to study carefully and to act accordingly, the paper added. It said that should the Arabs remain impactive to such developments they will have only themselves to blame if the greater blocs tended to ignore the Arab Nation's interests in the coming years.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, columnist Salah Abdul Samad calls on the Arab countries in general and Jordan in particular to assign more seats at their universities for the students of the occupied Arab territories. When the Council for Higher Education in Jordan took the decision of assigning three per cent of Jordanian universities' seats for Palestinians, the schools and universities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were all open and operating normally, but now the situation has changed and the Palestinian students have no universities because they had been closed for years, says the writer. Abdul Samad notes that higher education is the most wanted thing by students; and the Arab countries which are keen on supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people should now prove that they really are interested in their future. What is required is an increase in the number of seats for the students in Arab universities especially in Jordan which was the first Arab state to declare its full support for the Palestinian uprising, the writer concludes.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Minimum wage hurts labour

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

NEWS suggest that the Ministry of Labour is seriously considering the application of minimum wages as allowed for in the Labour Law, and that the intention is to fix the minimum between JD 75 and JD 90 a month.

On the face of it, such a step sounds like a service to labourers by securing better wages and thus advancing the cause of social justice in the current difficult economic circumstances.

The truth however is so different. The good intentions that lie behind raising the minimum wage will not prevent economic laws from taking their natural course. It is feared that the real victims will be the very labourers that this step is meant to help.

The idea of adopting an official and compulsory minimum wage level stems from the assumption that the wage determined at the market is too low. The minimum wage is thus meant to raise the rate above the level that guarantees a balanced market.

In fact the practical application of the minimum wage reduces demand on labour and consequently increases unemployment. Labour behaves in the market like any other commodity or service, and the demand on labour responds negatively with price. Setting a minimum wage may benefit those who are now working

at low wages, but it does not serve those who are not employed and do not draw any wages at all. Even more, a high minimum may cause some low-paid labourers to lose their present jobs, and join the unemployed, because employers have only two options, either to pay higher wages or lay off the subject workers.

On the other hand, if employers cannot pay less than a set minimum wage, it is only logical that they will opt for the stronger worker with longer experience and higher capability. No employer will take a young or weak worker who lacks experience, as long as he pays the same minimum.

The outcome of imposing a minimum wage will obviously be that weak groups, those that need support and assistance, will become the first victims to suffer from such a policy. With the good intention of improving their income, they might end deprived of any income at all.

It is more likely that the minimum wage level will be applicable only for Jordanian workers, and not for non-Jordanian guest workers. The gap between the wages of Jordanians and non-Jordanian workers will thus grow and become an additional incentive for employers to prefer non-Jordanians, using all other

excuses, while the real reason is that Jordanian worker is relatively more costly.

In summary, the adoption of a minimum wage level is a guaranteed prescription for more unemployment. It is a blow to the weakest of the working class. The real improvement in the income of the Jordanian working class can be achieved by controlling the labour market, raising of productivity, protection from unfair competition, and encouraging collective bargaining between the unions and the employers.

Finally one has to point out that the adoption of a wage minimum will be another nightmare to the Ministry of Labour. It has to inspect and enforce the law all over the country, let alone the near impossibility of finding the right minimum wage level for each category of workers classified in hundreds of professions and varying degrees of education, experience, and hardship of the job concerned.

The crucial step taken by the Ministry of Labour last Wednesday to suspend issuing any new work permit for non-Jordanians until further notice is more meaningful and will render the minimum wage move obsolete.

Gorbachev: Master of political manoeuvre

By Peter Conrad
Reuters

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev has again proved a master at political manoeuvring, emerging triumphant from a Communist plenum at which he persuaded the party to undergo its biggest shakeup since the 1917 revolution.

Sweeping aside criticism from conservative colleagues unhappy at the speed of change, Gorbachev succeeded on Wednesday in pushing through a new platform which paves the way for the eventual creation of a multi-party democracy.

Seeking to harness demands for a radical Eastern European style-change now sweeping his own country, the Kremlin leader has persuaded Soviet Communists that they must be prepared eventually to share power with their political forces.

And, in typical style, Gorbachev did so in a way that will further reinforce his own grip on power, with the platform also beefing up the presidency to give him more clout — on paper at least — than any of his predecessors.

"We remain attached to the choice made in October 1917, to the Socialist idea, but we are getting away from a dogmatic conception of it," Gorbachev told the policy-making Central Committee last Monday, outlining his radical new party platform.

He stressed: "Our ideal is humane, democratic socialism." Since becoming Soviet Communist Party chief in March 1985, Gorbachev has proved time and again his mastery of political manoeuvring, coming up stronger each time it appeared opponents of his perestroika reforms were rising against him.

From his first months in office, Gorbachev has made use of the enormous patronage he enjoys as general secretary to fill senior party ranks with men and women sympathetic to his reform programme.

Shortly after taking over, Gorbachev brought supporters on to the ruling politburo and in April last year persuaded 100 old-timers who were out of step with his reform to "resign" from the Central Committee.

He followed in September with a dramatic shake-up at the top, which led to the resignation of five top members of the country's leadership in what was the biggest purge of the ruling politburo since he came to office.

At the same time, the Kremlin leader has taken advantage of the new state power structure centred on the revamped Soviet parliament to further tighten his grip.

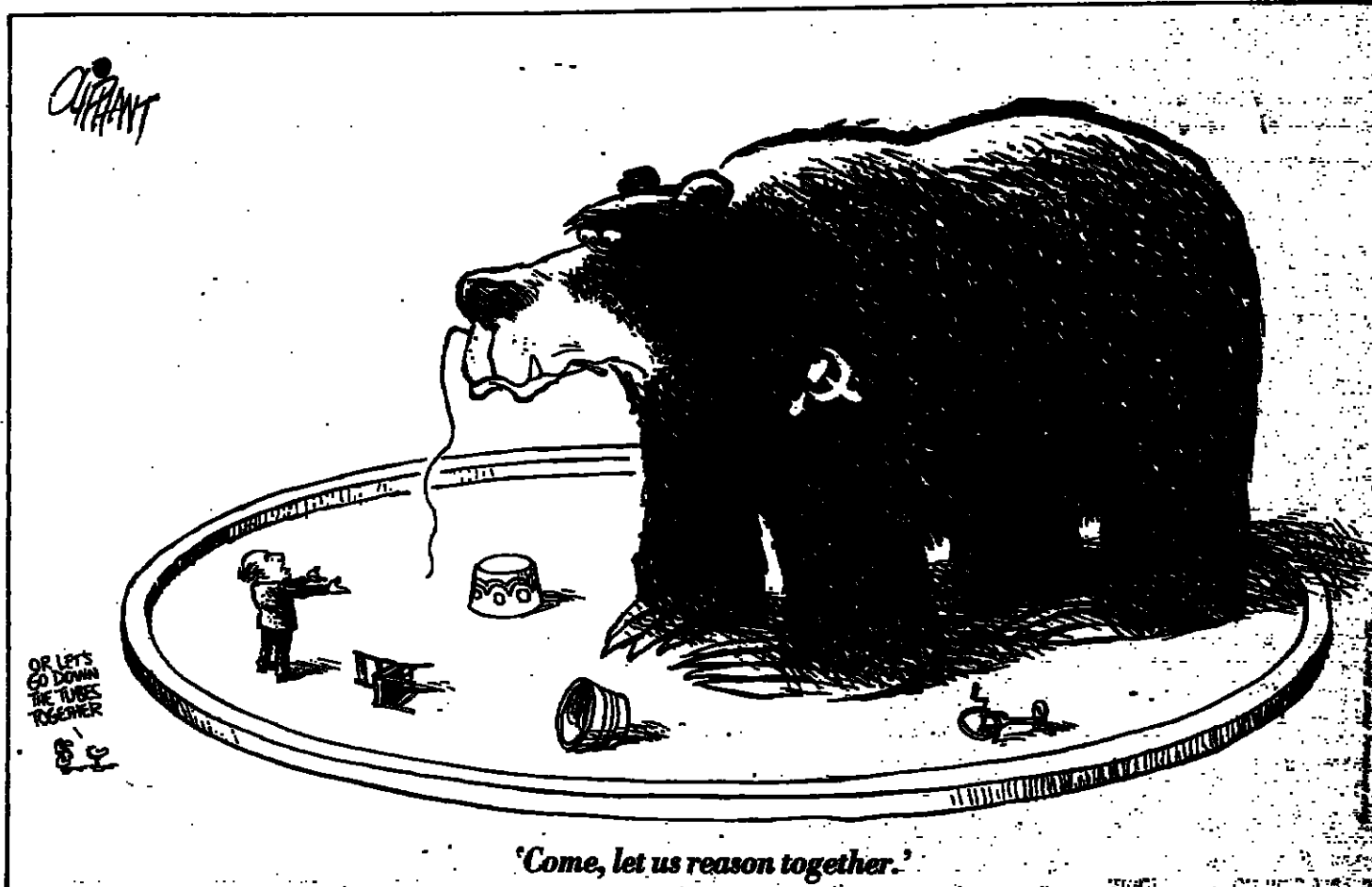
Already holding the old ceremonial presidency from October 1988, Gorbachev was the undisputed choice to fill the new-style post of head of state when deputies sat down to elect the country's leader in May 1989.

He stands to further increase this new power under the proposed changes contained in the new party platform once it receives its expected approval by the Soviet parliament.

Under its terms, the presidency — which is now merely the chairmanship of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet — will be turned into a full executive post with even greater powers.

At the same time Gorbachev will almost certainly hold on to his party post, although the platform calls for this to be transformed into a party chairmanship.

However, if anything, the increase in the Soviet leader's per-



sonal power appears to have been matched by a growth both in the scope and complexity of the problems he faces.

Abroad, Gorbachev has gone from triumph to triumph, sparking a dramatic improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations, boosting disarmament and helping find a solution to conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Nicaragua.

He has also won praise from

the West in recent months for watching in silence as his East European allies took his pledges of "non-interference" at face value and rejected the political and economic system imposed by his predecessors.

However, at home, Gorbachev has faced an alarming escalation in nationalist unrest, open violence, coupled with a perceptible failure of his reform programme

to make any impact on the country's mounting economic woes.

Events took a dramatic turn for the worse last month when the army was sent in to bring an end to bloodshed in the turbulent Transcaucasian republic of Azerbaijan. More than 143 people were officially reported to have died.

At the same time, the economy — aggravated by a series of debilitating strikes — has appeared to slip downhill, with already pitiful supplies in the country's shops worsening rather than improving.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was born on March 2, 1931 in the northern Caucasus

village of Privolnoye, near Stavropol. He took a degree in law at Moscow University before returning to Stavropol, a major agricultural region.

Party chief in Stavropol at the age of 35, he was summoned to Moscow in 1978 to take charge of agriculture and in 1979 was made a non-voting member of the politburo under now discredited former leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Westerners who have met Gorbachev describe him as a highly intelligent man who displays a charm and ease of manner rare among past Soviet leaders. His wife Raisa also has a self-assurance rarely found among previous Soviet "first ladies."

Kohl takes enormous gamble on rapid German unity

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl is taking the biggest gamble of his political life by rushing towards German unity as fast as possible.

The West German leader, who until recently was preaching patience to East Germans demanding a single state, has decided the threat of collapse across the border is worse than the problems that unity will bring.

He also sees his own re-election in December depends on how he manages the hasty marriage of one of the world's wealthiest and most orderly states with a poorer and increasingly chaotic cousin.

Kohl overrode his fiercely independent central bank, the Bundesbank, on Wednesday and decided to seek immediate monetary union with East Germany. He believes a quick signal like introducing the strong Deutschmark into East Germany is more important than the problems that might come later.

Announcing Bonn's bold decision, Finance Minister Theo Waigel uttered a thought haunting leaders in Bonn:

"We must remain master of the political process," he announced, sober-faced.

In fact, nobody is master of the political process at the moment and the realisation of that fact has frightened both Bonn and East Berlin.

Waigel admitted as much when asked whether monetary union would be enough to stop East Germans flocking here at the rate of a small city every month:

"I don't know... it's a signal, an appeal..." he said.

Kohl's main fear is that East Germany, once the showcase economy of the Communist world, will collapse so badly that it will simply fall, exhausted and anarchic, into Bonn's arms.

Committed by its constitution, Bonn will have to pay enormous sums to prop up the East German economy, help clean up years of shocking pollution of the environment and guarantee social services for the restless population.

Will this lead to inflation, the worst fear of the Germans since their money turned into worthless paper in the 1920s? Higher taxes? Will interest rates shoot up?

Events have moved so fast that nobody knows.

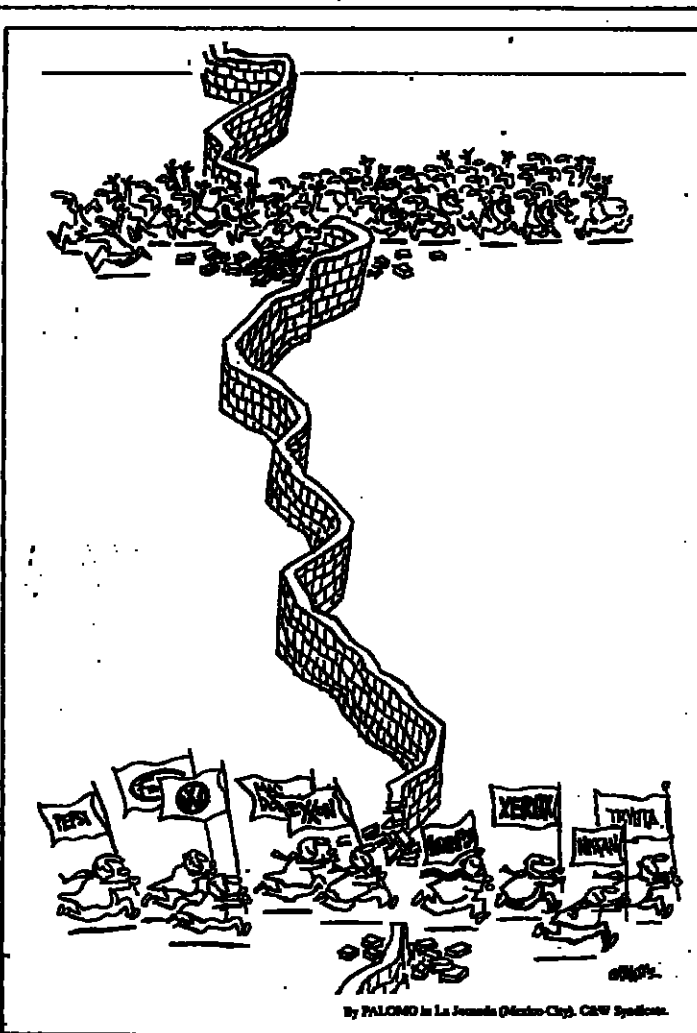
Waigel is due to announce next week a seven billion mark (\$4.2 billion) supplementary budget to help East Germany, the first tranche of a Bonn bailout that economists here expect to be repeated several times as the unification drama unfolds.

It will be a mammoth task if everything goes peacefully.

What nobody wants to think about is what would happen if East Germans, disoriented by the sharp winds of capitalism gusting through their homeland, break out in waves of strikes and violence.

The stakes on this side of the border are equally high. After greeting the first refugees from the old Stalinist system with open arms last year, West Germans are now giving a cooler welcome to those coming over.

A materialistic society, they are becoming increasingly worried that unity will hit them where



it hurts — in their wallets.

The comfortable middle class sees taxes rising as Bonn lays on emergency housing, unemployment benefits, training schemes and full pensions for the 2,000 East Germans arriving here each day. About 70,000 have come this year alone.

West Germany's two million unemployed and several other million low-paid workers see the immigrants as an open threat to their hopes for jobs, better pay or better housing.

Most new arrivals are well-qualified and hard-working, except for a small but rising number of criminal types — a problem in cities like Hamburg that have attracted many men released in a

prison amnesty last December.

And since the new arrivals are fellow Germans, frustrated West Germans can hardly vent their anger with racist outbursts like the "Turks out" calls heard at neo-Nazi meetings.

Oskar Lafontaine, front-runner to lead the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) against Kohl, showed these fears were a potent campaign issue when he won a landslide re-election in his Saar state in late January.

While Kohl's centre-right coalition is still tipped to win by a small margin in December, any unrest along the way towards the Germans' long-held dream could turn out of office the man who raced to realise it.

LETTERS

Restless spirits

To the Editor:

IT is commendable to have the strength to find your way in life. It is wonderful to know what you want and it is reassuring to choose your own religion by your own will. But it is too much and definitely against any religious creed to display one's belief so ostentatiously and praise oneself on a finally found haven for a tormented soul, even more so when one does it to attack — albeit mildly — a fellow co-believer.

First it was Claire de la Plume whose suggestion that alcohol should be served to those who want it (Jordan Times, Jan. 25-26, 1990) was met with strong opposition leading to praise of services on Royal Jordanian planes and topping it with even greater praise of the pilots' intelligence, which I am not going to contest, but where I, again, didn't see any connection. Now it is Zuleikha Abu Rishé, who, somehow — and I believe for all the practical reasons of modern life — wouldn't wear a veil or a long dress. And alongside her all the other women who wouldn't happen to be Mrs. Yaghi's "only models" (Letters to the Editor, Jordan Times, Feb. 8-9, 1990). Wearing scarves and long dresses is not in itself a mark of faith. American women are not the only ones who don't wear them but so are others on a few more continents. It is a sign of maturity, intelligence and wit to recognise the "evil" in your society and have the guts to criticise it or distance yourself from it. But to turn against a faith and a people with which you lived and identified for most of your life doesn't inspire much trust. You don't just wash your hands of everything you stood for. Or if you do and do it out of conviction as Mrs. Yaghi seems to have done, then you don't have to make a fuss about it. Mrs. Yaghi is supposed to have found a source of peace for her soul and mind. But inner peace seems difficult to find for anybody and all we have here is a battling and defiant (or is it?) spirit that seems so restless.

V. Wabbeh
Amman

Shattered

To the Editor:

I'M shattered! I've just found out that women I've loved and admired the past 25 years are not "good" Muslims because they don't wear the hejab! To think that this "insight" came from a fellow American! Imagine, I might have continued the next 25 years making the same mistake. Now I know — no scarf, no good. Thanks Ms. Yaghi for the "enlightenment!"

Karen Ashour
Amman

Mental health may play key role in surviving, preventing cancer

By Catherine Arnet
Reuter
LONDON — There is growing evidence that emotional health is as important as medical treatment and lifestyle in determining not only a person's chances of surviving cancer, but of getting the disease in the first place.

Personality, in particular so-called "Type-A" characteristics such as aggression, has long been linked to heart disease. But doctors were more reluctant to associate emotional states with tumour growth, which involve a complicated breakdown of the immune system.

In the last four months, however, two well-received studies have been published that found women with breast cancer lived longer if they underwent group therapy or demonstrated a fighting spirit against the disease.

More controversial were three large-scale studies done in West Germany and Hungary that found personality traits and stressful events were six times more likely to contribute to a

person's likelihood of developing cancer than smoking, cholesterol levels, or any other medical or physical factors.

The studies identified cancer-prone people as those who tend to be over-competitive, unassertive, over-patient and conflict-avoiding, all attributes which make one vulnerable to stress.

These studies, published over the past 10 years, were designed by Dr. Ronald Grossarth-Maticek, a Yugoslav psychologist now working in Heidelberg, and at first received scant attention in the Western world.

But Grossarth-Maticek gained considerable credibility in recent years from the support of Dr. Hans Eysenck, founder of the University of London's Institute of Psychiatry and a world-renowned psychologist.

Last year the two researchers published a study of 850 randomly chosen people who, on the basis of personality tests, were divided into four groups — those thought to be susceptible to cancer or to heart disease and those

who did not show the factors associated with the two diseases, but differed in other ways.

They divided in the same way another group of more than 1,000 people who suffered from marked stress, and followed up both groups ten years later.

Of the randomly selected sample, 17.4 per cent of the people identified as cancer-prone had died of cancer, compared with no cancer deaths in the latter two groups.

Of the people under stress, 38.4 per cent of the cancer-prone died of cancer, compared with less than two per cent of the groups without heart or cancer-prone personalities.

There were significantly more cancer deaths in the cancer-prone samples than coronary deaths among those characterised as susceptible to heart disease.

"These results have very profound social and medical consequences," Eysenck told a recent London conference on cancer and the mind. "One of our problems is...how to make use of

this knowledge."

Eysenck could not explain why personality plays a part in tumour growth, which is one reason many doctors remain cautious about interpreting the results of the studies.

Some cancer specialists warn that, without more knowledge, such studies could do more harm than good.

"One of the first questions cancer patients tend to ask is 'is this my fault?'" said Dr. Barrie Cassileth, director of the cancer control programme at the University of Pennsylvania hospital in the United States.

"I say 'no it isn't,' because what else can I say? I don't think we know nearly enough to say anything else. We don't want to add a burden of guilt on our patients."

"It is terribly important that this evidence is dealt with very scientifically," said one doctor at the London conference.

"If the patient goes away thinking that it's all right to smoke as long as I think straight, well, that

would be terrible," he said.

Cancer specialists are more encouraged by studies showing that therapy and a positive attitude can play a critical role, when coupled with medical treatment, in helping cancer patients fight the disease.

In one study by Eysenck and Grossarth-Maticek, 100 people with cancer-prone personalities were studied, with 50 in therapy and 50 not. After 13 years, 16 of the non-therapy group had died of cancer and 21 had come down with the disease, while only 13 of the therapy group had developed cancer and none had died.

Doctors questioned the methodology of that research and were more impressed with a study published in October by researchers at Stanford University in California.

The Stanford team studied 86 women with terminal breast cancer who were receiving traditional medical treatment. However, 50 of the women also attended support group meetings led by a psychotherapist.

These women lived an average of 36 months after the start of the study while those not in group therapy survived only 18 months. After ten years, only three of the 86 were still alive, and they were all in the therapy group.

Dr. David Spiegel, head of the Stanford researchers, said: "We were shocked when we saw the magnitude of the effect. We expected no biological effect from the psychotherapy."

The Stanford research was described by Dr. Jimmie Holland, chief psychiatrist of Sloan-Kettering hospital in New York, as "the first scientific study to show a change in survival from psychotherapy that is scientifically sound."

It was followed in December by a study from the Royal Marsden hospital in London that women with breast cancer who responded with a fighting spirit or denial were significantly more likely to be alive and well five, 10 and 15 years later than those patients who adopted fatalistic or hopeless responses.

Slaves of the wealthy

By Martin Wright
LONDON, Britain — A hundred and fifty years after Londoner, William Wilberforce, led a successful campaign to ban the slave trade from British lands, thousands of Third World women are working in conditions of virtual slavery in London, due to an anomaly in British immigration laws.

Under the law, foreigners coming to Britain are allowed to bring their own servants. However, the servants themselves — usually domestic maids — are not given work permits by the immigration authorities.

Instead, they are admitted only on six-month visitor's visas which specify that they are working for a named employer. Once the visa runs out, they have no legal right to remain in the country. In effect, this means that they have no rights under U.K. employment legislation, and it leaves them wide open to exploitation.

"The whole family used to shout at me and sometimes beat me if I made the smallest mistake. Even the children would spit in my face and pull my hair. I had to work until two in the morning, and then I wasn't even allowed my own room, but had to sleep on the floor outside the bathroom door. I was supposed to receive a regular monthly salary, but most months they gave me nothing at all."

An added irony is that many of the women involved are professionally qualified, recruited from their home countries by agents who promise them handsome salaries working at their professions overseas. It is often only on being met at the airport by their employer that they are told they'll be working as maids. By that time, they might have paid as much as US\$1,200 in commission to the recruiting agent — a sum which most have struggled to collect.

One Filipina who applied for a job as a civil engineer in Kuwait was told on arriving that "I don't employ women as engineers. If you want to stay, you'll have to work as a maid." Already in debt to the recruiting agency, she had little choice but to stay.

The agencies often recruit in rural areas of the Philippines, where families struggling to make a living as smallholders or plantation workers are enthusiastic about the prospect of having a daughter sending money home from a well-paid job abroad. In order to pay the agent's commission, they frequently have to sell one of their buffaloes or a portion of their land.

Among the 200 or so servants who have been helped by CFMW and its campaigning affiliate, Kalayaan, is Maria, a former sales girl from the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

She was promised a monthly salary of US\$200 working for a Saudi minister in Riyadh. In practice, she rarely received the money. After three years in Saudi Arabia, during which she was routinely beaten and abused by her employer, she was brought to London. After hearing about the CFMW through a friend, she summoned up the courage to leave the house.

But now, like every other former servant who came in on a visitor's visa, Maria is effectively an illegal immigrant. The CFMW tries to find alternative work for women like Maria and Sally.

However, as solicitor Naseem Khan of Paddington Law Centre, which has helped support of the domestic workers, points out, what is really needed is a change in the law which would give all servants proper legal recognition — however they were brought into the U.K.

"These people should be given work permits like anyone else coming to work in Britain," she explains. "These could be valid for periods of, say, one year, after which they'd have to be renewed. But the important thing is that workers wouldn't be tied to one particular employer."

— Pans features.

New Zealand faces growing race problems on 150th birthday

By David Stann
Reuter
AUCKLAND, New Zealand — New Zealanders celebrated the 150th anniversary of their modern nation on Tuesday confronting growing racial problems between whites and Maoris.

Maori chiefs formally ceded sovereignty to Britain in 1840 under the Treaty of Waitangi, which guaranteed them ownership of their lands and other prized possessions.

It was intended as a pledge of goodwill between the indigenous Maoris, who now make up 10 per cent of New Zealand's 3.3 million population, and the majority of European descent.

But 150 years later old wounds have reopened. Maori tribes have claimed huge tracts of land they say European settlers took illegally in the last century, fuelling resentment among many "Pakehas," as white New Zealanders are called.

Whitiri Mikiere, secretary of the He Tahi coalition, said there was nothing to celebrate because the government had never honoured the treaty, signed on February 6, 1840.

Explaining that He Tahi was Maori for "War Party," she said: "We want to deliver a challenge to the government to stop wasting taxpayers' money on 1990 celebrations and honour the treaty of Waitangi. Then we'll celebrate."

Labour Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer recently called for the complex issue of race and the treaty to be brought into the open.

"What can look menacing under the cover of night can look much less sinister in the light of day. We need to bring the whole issue of race relations into the daylight," Palmer said. "There is misunderstanding of treaty of Waitangi issues with the potential for hostility between races."

Twenty years after the treaty signing at Waitangi in New Zealand's far north, British troops were fighting land wars with Maoris and by 1877 the government had effectively torn it up.

Today the treaty lies at the centre of simmering tension between the races.

Maoris have been hit hard by an economic recession, suffering unemployment well above the national rate. They also face social problems such as a high level of Maoris in prison and the poor performance of many Maori children at school.

Maori militancy has grown over land rights. In 1978 activists occupied Bastion Point, a park in Auckland, to demand its return. Police broke up the occupation.

In 1985, the newly elected Labour government changed the law to allow Maori tribes to lodge claims for any land they believe has been taken illegally since 1840.

"What can look menacing under the cover of night can look much less sinister in the light of day. We need to bring the whole issue of race relations into the daylight."

Settlers confiscated much Maori territory in the land wars and later in the 19th century. Maoris now want that land back and have gone to the Waitangi Tribunal, which an earlier Labour government set up to judge claims.

Despite the government's efforts to tell the nation that Maoris can claim only state-owned land, unease has grown among some white New Zealanders worried that they could lose their property.

Racial tension has rarely turned into violence and New Zealand's problems remain modest compared with those faced by many other countries. But critics say the government has opened Pandora's box of claims that could stoke, rather than soothe, tensions.

"As the fishing and land claims poured in, there was a feeling of concern and anger among much of the population in this country," said Bob Martin, former patron of the One New Zealand Foundation. "Unless this...is addressed, the anger and division will continue to grow and fester."

Martin recently left the group, saying it had been taken over by right-wing extremists.

Maoris have regained bastion point and a deal has been struck giving a Maori agency a share of the nation's fishing rights, to be phased in over a number of years.

But Maoris are frustrated over the slow pace of dealing with claims. The tribunal has the tricky task of establishing whether a tribe was robbed of land or simply sold it to the government under a clause in the treaty, losing their right to reclaim it.

Last December, Palmer announced measures to clear a backlog before the Waitangi Tribunal and decide the last claim within 10 years. The tribunal, a five-member body of Maoris and Pakehas, advises the government, which then makes the final decision.

Foreign Minister Russell Marshall defended the government's record, saying that addressing grievances dating back to the last century would never be easy.

"Any way through those issues is fraught with difficulty and a degree of anguish and we're not out of it yet," he said. "But I think we're coming through it pretty well."

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A reconstruction of the signing of the treaty. Leonard C. Mitchell, 1961-1971.

Homosexuals 'acquitted'?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer homosexual American men are developing AIDS than had been projected, a government researcher says, but new cases among intravenous drug users are growing as had been expected.

Mitchell H. Gail, a National Cancer Institute epidemiologist, said a new study shows the number of reported AIDS cases among gay men began declining around the middle of 1987, around the time that the anti-AIDS drug AZT and other AIDS therapies came into wide use.

The study shows about 36 per cent fewer gay men have de-

veloped AIDS than had been projected by the public health service. At the same time, AIDS cases among intravenous drug users have been progressing as projected.

"Although we don't have good data yet, it's a reasonable guess that they are not being treated as intensively as they should be," Gail said, referring to IV drug users who are infected with the AIDS virus.

The federal Centers for Disease Control, which tracks reported AIDS cases, is reassessing its projections.

Vision is racist

BALTIMORE (AP) — Blacks are nearly twice as likely as whites to have vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses, according to a study of more than 5,300 city residents over age 40, researchers have said.

James M. Tielsch and Dr. Alfred Sommer of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital said they cannot explain the difference between the races.

The study defined impairment as vision of 20-40 and legal blindness as vision of 20-200.

The study of 2,918 whites and 2,395 blacks found visual impair-

ment in 2.2 per cent of the whites and 3.94 per cent of the blacks. Of the whites, 43 per cent were legally blind, compared to 1.02 per cent of the blacks.

The survey also found what Tielsch and Sommer called a surprising number of blacks and whites who had vision problems even with the glasses they were wearing when tested.

"The good news is that two-thirds to three-quarters of those were correctable, that is they could move out of the visual impairment category just by the provision of the proper pair of spectacles," he said.

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West German trade surplus tops Japanese

BONN (R) — West Germany announced a record trade surplus for 1989 Friday, putting Europe's dominant economic power ahead of Japan for the first time since the 1970s.

Official data showed West Germany's exports surged last year as demand intensified for its quality engineering goods.

Bonn's trade surplus jumped five per cent to 134.7 billion marks (\$81 billion) in 1989. Japan's 1989 trade surplus was \$77 billion.

But economists said West Germany may not wear its laurels for long once economic union with East Germany, a goal the Bonn government is rapidly pressing for, is realised.

"We'll see a significant drop in the surpluses because of East Germany," said Ulrich Hombröcher, German economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale in Düsseldorf.

East Germany's citizens, who have suffered for years from consumer goods shortages, will soon start equipping themselves from scratch. They would probably start coming to West Germany to buy consumer goods which are not made here.

That would swell West Germany's imports and curb its foreign surpluses. "Many of the things they want, like electronic goods, are not made here and will be imported," said Hombröcher.

Such imports could slice West Germany's 1990 trade surplus by up to 20 billion marks (\$12 billion), said Warren Oliver, an economist at U.K. brokers Phillips and Drew.

West Germany's 1989 current

account surplus, which includes services such as banking and insurance as well as goods, rose 16 per cent to 99.1 billion marks (\$60 billion).

Bonn last had a bigger current account surplus than Japan in 1976, when a huge oil price rise cut Japan's surplus.

Tokyo, which faces continued criticism from trading partners, expects its trade surplus to fall this year.

But economists at the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) think-tank say the Japanese surplus will rise again in 1990 after falling in 1989.

Dresdner Bank economist Rolf Schneider said West Germany's monthly trade surpluses were already dwindling in the last three months of 1989 because of East Germans moving here.

More than 300,000 East Germans settled in West Germany last year and more are coming at a rate of up to 3,000 a day.

The Federal Statistics Office said West Germany's large trade surpluses meant that the powerful West German mark should be revalued against other European currencies. However, European governments oppose any such move.

An statistics office official, Siegfried Guckes, told journalists West Germany's trade surpluses were especially large with France, Italy and Britain. He gave no details.

West Germany's trade surplus with all EC countries rose 40 per cent to 114.5 billion marks in 1989.

Moscow to cut meat output

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union will cut back meat production because it has run out of grain to feed its cattle, the Communist Party daily Pravda reported Friday.

The newspaper quoted Vladimir Nikitin, chairman of the Commission for Food and Procurement, who made the remarks before the Communist Party's Central Committee Wednesday.

"Today the situation is like this — there is no grain," Nikitin said according to Pravda.

He was responding to complaints by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaly Masol, who said there was not enough grain to feed cattle in his republic, the breadbasket of the nation.

It was more bad news for Soviet consumers who already face meat rationing in many parts of the country. Food shortages have led to widespread dissatisfaction, recognised by officials as a major cause of pessimism about President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

Nikitin said state procurements of grain after the 1989 harvest were lower than planned and Moscow had not succeeded in buying an additional five million tonnes of grain abroad, implying there was no foreign currency to pay for it.

"There is no grain because

there is no money," Nikitin told the committee.

"It remains to me only to take one decision, and that is to reduce deliveries of meat," he noted.

Nikitin's commission, essentially the state agriculture ministry, replaced the old Gosagroprom agricultural bureaucracy abolished last year.

The Soviet grain harvest was up to 211.1 million tonnes, matching the 1987 harvest, the highest since a record 237 million tonnes in 1978.

But state procurements in 1989 dropped to 59 million tonnes, the lowest since 1984. This grain, which is redistributed by Moscow to the republics, was not enough to go around, the Ukrainian prime minister said.

"Tomorrow the country will be without eggs, because this is a state enterprise, and without meat we will simply have to close because our state deliveries of fodder were reduced by 25 per cent," Masol told the committee, according to Pravda.

Western diplomats said they thought transportation bottlenecks and fuel shortages which plagued the harvesting also depressed state purchase of grain from farmers last year.

But there were reports of fodder shortages before the harvest and the low state procurements

may mean some farmers kept more grain for themselves to feed their cattle.

Soviet grain imports, which must be paid for in hard currency, were 36 million tonnes in 1989, a million tonnes more than in 1988.

Recently the Kremlin has been having trouble meeting payment schedules, although a Soviet official in Washington Thursday said Moscow had resolved its credit problems.

Mikhail Ageyev, vice-president of the Soviet grain trading agency Exportkhleb, said 2.6 million tonnes of grain were waiting to be unloaded in Soviet ports due to transport problems.

And in a remark contrasting sharply with Nikitin's statements, Ageyev said Moscow was in no hurry to buy more.

Soviet meat production last year was 20 million tonnes, up slightly from 19.7 million tonnes in 1988, according to the State Committee for Statistics.

But average consumption of meat was just 67 kilograms per Soviet citizen, including fat, for the entire year.

"People are not interested in concepts, in theories — they need bread, milk, housing, transportation. This is understandable," Alexander Yakovlev, a member of the ruling Politburo, told CBS evening news in Moscow Thursday.

Poland asks for debt freeze

WARSAW (AP) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki asked Friday for 17 creditor governments to let Poland immediately suspend payments and then freeze its \$40 billion foreign debt.

Mazowiecki's request precedes a meeting next week of the Paris Club, the international organisation representing most of Poland's foreign government creditors. The meeting is to coordinate debt relief for the new Solidarity-led government.

Poland has been paying about \$1.5 billion annually to service its foreign debt, the largest in Eastern Europe. The payments consume nearly all of Poland's net export earnings, leaving little money to invest in the country's dilapidated industry.

Mazowiecki's request was made in a letter to creditors. "The letter says we are at the moment introducing a very difficult economic reform programme," said government spokesman Zbigniew Augustynowicz.

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"It is underlined that the success of this programme will have a deep significance not only for Poland but for the whole of Europe," he added.

The Paris Club, which gathers occasionally in the French capital to consider debt reschedulings, is expected to consider Poland's debt problems Wednesday.

According to Augustynowicz, the letter asks that creditors: — Permit Poland to suspend all payments, including interest and principal, for 1989 and 1990. — Freeze the debt at its present level.

— Seek a long-term solution to the Polish debt problem such as outright debt reduction.

The letter also suggests that the Paris Club create a working group to deal with long-range problem, he said.

Last month, a U.S. finance official, David Mulford, said the Paris Club was expected to offer Poland a "magnanimous" restructuring of its debt. The prop-

osal would take \$5 billion in payments due in the next two years and stretch them over 10 years.

However, Mazowiecki's letter seeks more fundamental relief.

Most of Poland's debt was accumulated during the 1970s by the communist government under former party leader Edward Giersek.

In the 1970s, Polish authorities borrowed and spent Western money freely on investment projects as well as food and consumer goods, an attempt to win public affection. Later governments acknowledged that much of the money was wasted.

When Poland's economy went into a tailspin in the late 1970s, the country was no longer able to keep up payments.

President Wojciech Jaruzelski last week described Poland's debt as "the greatest impediment to the full start and development of the economy."

Japan, Iran end major project

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and Iran have formally terminated a war-damaged multi-billion-dollar joint petrochemical project in southern Iran, following payments by five Japanese companies, officials said Friday.

The two sides ended the 19-year-old project with payments of 130 billion yen (\$900 million) by the Japanese side, Koichiro Ejiri, president of Japan's Mitsui Co., and Ahmad Rahgozar, head of Iran's National Petrochemical Co., said in a joint statement.

"We expect this will contribute to smooth relationships between

the two countries, and we feel relieved as major promoters of the project," the two executives said.

The payment, by five companies in the Mitsui group, was to compensate Iran for its spending on the project after Japan stopped funding it in 1981, a Mitsui official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Of the 130 billion yen, Mitsui paid about 78 billion yen (\$538 million) and the remainder was divided among the other companies according to the amount

each invested in the project, the official said.

The five companies are estimating their losses from the venture and will claim insurance from the ministry of international trade and industry (MITI) said another Mitsui official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

MITI offers insurance for overseas investment by Japanese companies.

The ministry is sending representatives to Iran in April to see the factory and determine the amount of insurance to be paid to the companies, the nationally circulated newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported Friday. MITI officials declined to comment on the report.

Japan and Iran invested 600 billion (\$4.1 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture.

Israel Times finds financier

TEL AVIV (R) — A Hamburg-based Jewish financier has conditionally agreed to invest about \$5 million in new Israeli English-language newspaper run by former Jerusalem Post staff, newspaper sources said Friday.

They said an Israeli representative of businessman Eduardo Seroussi signed a memorandum of understanding last week with former Post employees to launch the new daily called the Israel Times.

Seroussi agreed to cover up to 80 per cent of the start-up cost, projected at about \$6.5 million, on condition that an Israeli publishing house, buys a minority stake, they said.

They reported talks with three Hebrew-language newspapers for use of a printing press and administrative services.

Former Post managing editor David Landau will be editor of the Times, which is expected to start publication in April.

Thirty senior editors and reporters last month left the influential Post, Israel's only English-language daily, in a dispute with the publisher appointed by the paper's new Canadian owners, Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc media chain.

The staff accused publisher Yehuda Levy of interfering in editorial operations and wanting

to give the liberal daily a rightist editorial line which would not be critical of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Levy denied that and said he wanted a balanced newspaper.

The mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth said Seroussi, 60, was raised in Sudan and immigrated to Israel after the founding of the Zionist state in 1948.

He ran a successful textile empire in Africa before shifting to banking and financial operations in Europe in the 1950s.

Seroussi, who shuns publicity, later expanded his business interests to South America and the United States, Yedioth said.

The daily said he financed the political comeback of Ezer Weizman in the 1984 general election campaign. Weizman, now science minister, headed the small Yahad Party that later merged with the dovish Labour Party.

The Jerusalem Post announced Friday it had named N. David Gross as editor to replace Erwin Frenkel, whose resignation in December prompted the walkout by the 30 staffers.

The British-born Gross, 66, joined the Post in 1950. He was brought back from retirement to become managing editor amid the turmoil at the Post last month.

EC protests U.S. cheap wheat sales

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) top farm official voiced concern Friday over aggressive competition by the United States to export subsidised wheat.

EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry took the unusual step of issuing a statement saying he was worried about the way Washington was using subsidised sales to compete unfairly.

He "expressed deep concern over recent trade initiatives by the U.S. government in the cereals sector," the statement said. It singled out sales to Tunisia last week. An official said the United States has sold 50,000 tonnes at a subsidised price of \$130 per tonne, while the EC price to Tunisia is \$142.

"The commission will follow developments closely to see whether this was an isolated operation or whether it constitutes

the beginning of a new aggressive export on the part of the U.S.," the statement said.

MacSharry stressed he would take steps to safeguard the Community's interests on the world market but did not say how. The EC runs a system of so-called export refunds to bridge the gap between high internal EC prices, and lower world prices.

An official said the latest U.S. move was surprising as the market was buoyant at the moment, so Washington should have no need to resort to such tactics.

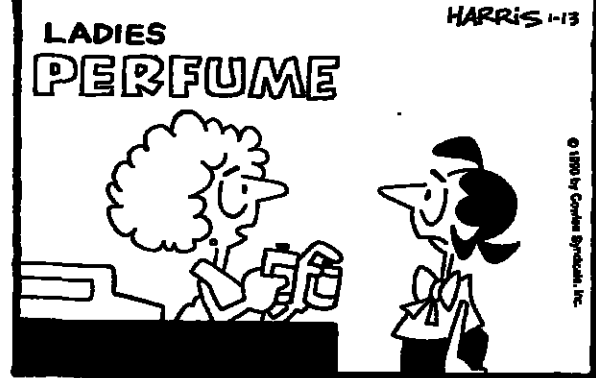
Washington has made frequent statements deploring the use of subsidies to help exporters as the world's biggest trading nations jockey for position ahead of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) world trade talks finale in Brussels in December.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

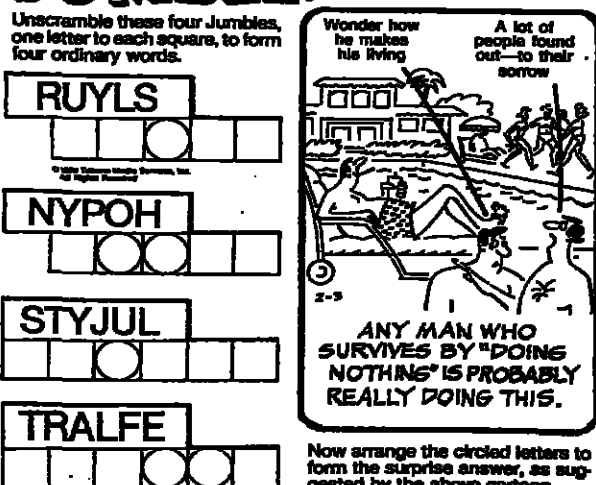
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Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.1	117.3
U.S. dollar	639.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	435.1	459.7
Pound Sterling	1117.8	1129.0	Dutch guilder	330.3	323.8
Deutsche mark	325.3	339.3	Swedish crown	108.1	109.2
Swiss franc	442.0	446.4	Indian Rupee (for 100)	53.1	53.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	188.6	190.5

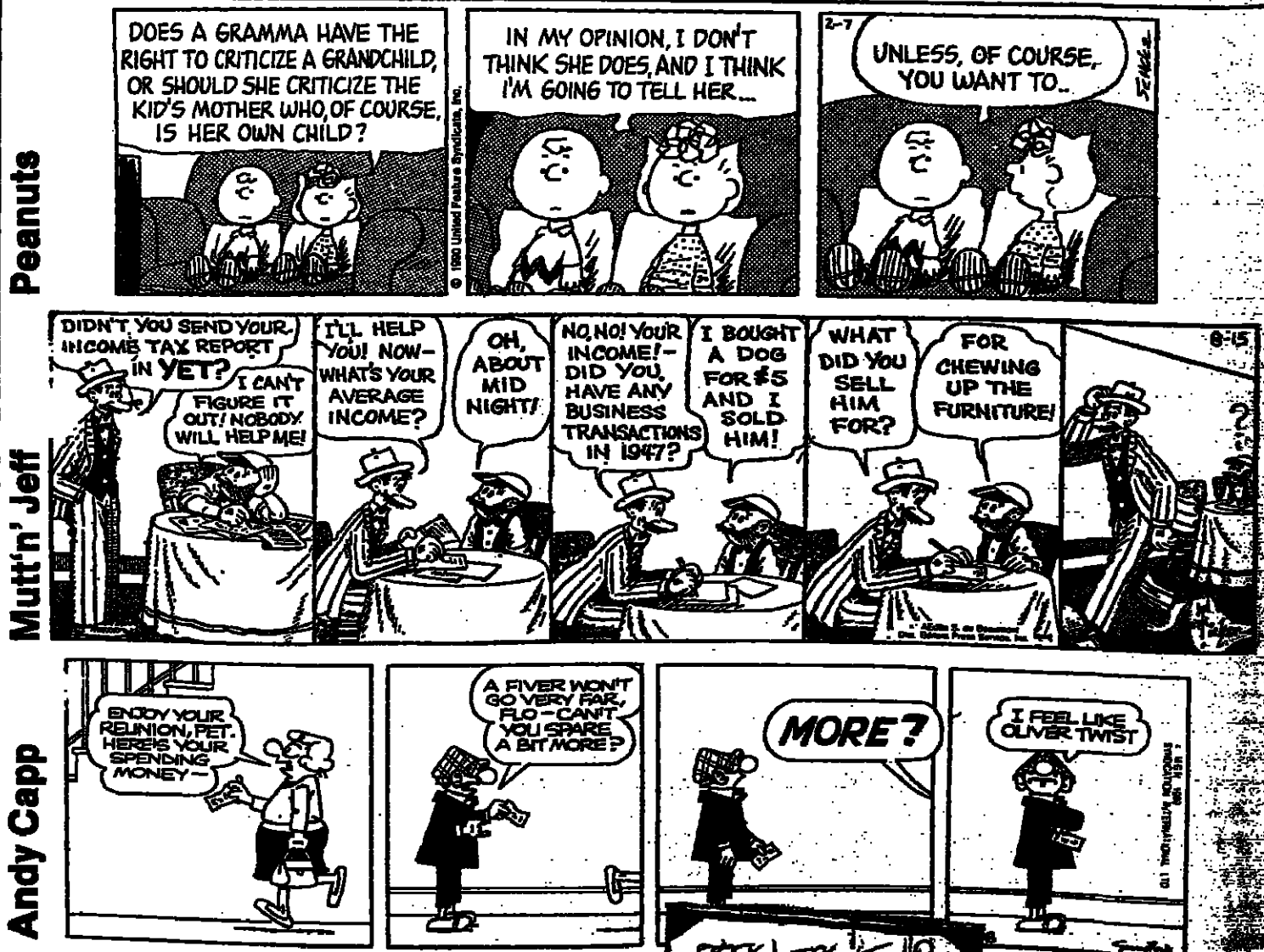
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: (Answers Monday)
Yesterday's Jumble: PIETY RAPID UNPAID STYLUS
Answer: How many a "checked" career ends up — IN A STRIPED SUIT



Samaranch arrives Wednesday

By Munem Fakhrany
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the honorary president of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC), will Thursday receive President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch who will be accompanied by President of the Asian Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The JOC has undertaken the necessary arrangements to receive Samaranch who is scheduled to arrive at Queen Alia International Airport Wednesday. Official talks will begin

Wednesday evening at Al Hussein Youth City where welcome speeches will be delivered and JOC member Dr. Mohammad Hamdan will review Jordan's Olympic sporting achievements. JOC Secretary General Abu Nawwar will later present a working paper. A press conference is scheduled to be held at Plaza Hotel Thursday at 06:30 p.m. The guests will leave Jordan Friday.

Juan Samaranch, who held the post of IOC president in 1980, is a Spanish national born in 1920. He served as Spain's ambassador to the Soviet Union and held the post of president of the Spanish Olympic Committee.



Chris Evert

Evert beats Navratilova

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AP) — Chris Evert, who retired from tournament tennis last fall, won the final three games of the second set Friday night and beat long-time rival and friend Martina Navratilova 6-3, 6-4 in an exhibition match at the Milwaukee arena.

Evert and Navratilova met 80 times in tournaments beginning with their first match in 1973. Friday night's match kicked off a series of exhibitions with another scheduled Saturday in Dallas.

Navratilova, who held a 43-37 advantage over Evert in the tournament meetings including a 14-8 advantage in Grand Slam events, jumped to a 2-0 first set lead. But Evert won a 15-minute third game that included six deuces and went on to win the following four games after that for a 5-2 lead.

Navratilova held for 5-3, but Evert rallied from love-30 down on her serve to win the first set when Navratilova volleyed long on set point.

Navratilova also led in the second set 4-3. But after holding her serve for 4-4, Evert broke in the ninth game and then held her serve to win the match, ending it with a volley at the set.

Agassi defeats Annacone

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Second-seeded Andre Agassi defeated the power-serving number eight seed Paul Annacone 6-4, 6-2, to gain the semifinals of the \$250,000 Volvo tennis-San Francisco tournament.

In Agassi's first tournament since early December, the 19-year old from Las Vegas used his trademark blazing ground strokes and a heavy top-spin lob to stop the 51st ranked Annacone from East Hampton, New York.

Despite Annacone's 11 aces, Agassi had no trouble breaking serve once in the first set and twice in the second.

"I had a lot of confidence when he would miss a second serve and I got a second to hit," Agassi said. "I faltered." Annacone, one of the game's premier chip-and-charge players, said, "I got off the track. He returns so well so early that you get less time to play. It's difficult to defend against that."

Also advancing to the semifinals were number five seeded Jim Grabb and unseeded Todd Wits-

ken and Joey Rive. Jim Grabb played the number four seeded Christo van Rensburg even — each won 101 points — but it was Grabb who won the last two in a third set tiebreaker.

Witsken also scored a mild upset by beating 7th seeded Richey Reneberg 7-6, 6-4. Witsken ranks 60th, Reneberg is 50th.

Rive, at number 142 the lowest ranking player allowed straight into the draw, defeated Jimmy Arias 6-4, 6-2. Arias is number 54. Earlier in the tournament he had upset 3rd seeded Kevin Curren.

Rive was so excited about getting this far that his nerves were sapping his energy, he said. This will be the second semifinal of his five-year career.

"The turning point was 4-all in the second," Rive said. "He couldn't put me away and I got a second wind. After that nothing could bother me."

The left-handed hander won five straight games, jumping to a 3-0 lead in the third set which Arias could not overcome.

Tyson favoured to retain title

TOKYO (AP) — For Evander Holyfield, it was a case of watching and waiting.

The top-ranked heavyweight contender was in Tokyo to watch Mike Tyson defend his title against James "Buster" Douglas Sunday at the 63,000-seat Tokyo Dome.

Asked if he was nervous, Holyfield said: "No, I'm not fighting."

Holyfield, however, could be excused if he was edgy about the outcome of the scheduled 12-round bout, slated to begin at 12:30 p.m. Tokyo time.

"We're rooting hard for Mike Tyson," said Dan Dava, Holyfield's promoter.

Holyfield already is signed to challenge Tyson June 18 at Atlantic City, New Jersey, for a

guaranteed \$12 million. A Douglas victory would necessitate new contract negotiations and almost certainly would cost Holyfield money.

Should Douglas upset Tyson, a Douglas-Holyfield fight doesn't figure to have the potential appeal of a Tyson-Holyfield match, which would be a battle of unbeaten fighters.

"If Tyson wins, (promoter) Don King will sign agreements which will make Tyson-Holyfield the largest advance in closed-circuit, pay-per-view fights in history," said Shelly Finkel, a Holyfield adviser, who is handling the television sales for the bout.

Tyson is an overwhelming favorite to beat the 29-year-old Douglas.

Aston Villa keeps up pressure as Liverpool held at Norwich

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, who had a player sent off for the first time since 1967, saw their lead in the English first division cut to one point when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Norwich on Saturday.

Swedish international defender Glenn Hysen was dismissed six minutes after the break for a lunging late tackle on Scotland striker Robert Fleck following a booking in the first half for a foul on the same player.

Paul Walsh, now with Tottenham, was the last Liverpool player sent off in a 1987 league cup semifinal against Southampton.

England midfielder David Platt scored his 20th goal of the season to give Aston Villa a 1-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday, lifting his side to within a point of Liverpool with two games in hand.

Liverpool have 50 points, Villa 49 and champions Arsenal, who were inactive, 42, while Nottingham Forest, who face Coventry in a league cup semifinal on Sunday, were joined on 39 by Tottenham, 2-1 winners at Chelsea.

Manchester United won their first league match in 12 outings, avoiding a drop into the relegation zone, when a Mark Hughes goal seven minutes from time

gave them a 2-1 victory at fellow strugglers Millwall.

Another player was sent off in the first division, Terry Phelan of Wimbledon getting his marching orders after 40 minutes in his side's 1-1 draw at Manchester City.

Norwich failed to avenge a 3-1 defeat at Anfield 10 days ago in an F.A. Cup fourth round replay despite facing only 10 men for 40 minutes and have won only once in their last seven outings.

Liverpool extended their unbeaten run to 15 matches in Peter Beardsley's 100th appearance for the club.

Beardsley's fellow England striker Gary Lineker, who scored a hat-trick in the 4-0 win over Norwich last Sunday, struck his 19th goal of the season one minute from time to give Spurs victory at Stamford Bridge.

David Howells, who also scored on Sunday, put Tottenham in front with a header on the stroke of halftime. John Bursstead equalising for Chelsea 14 minutes after the break.

Dean Saunders also scored his 19th goal of the season in Derby's 2-0 home win over Queens Park Rangers, who lost for the first time in 10 matches since England coach Don Howe took charge

following the departure of Trevor Francis.

The former England striker, now a player with Sheffield Wednesday, was expected to cast an ominous shadow at Villa Park, where he scored a hat-trick in September when player-manager at Queens Park Rangers, inflicting on Aston Villa their only defeat at home in the league so far this season.

But Francis, who started the match on the substitutes' bench, made little impression as Villa won their sixth league match in a row and ninth straight at home.

Welsh international Hughes had looked as though he might not come back for the second half at Millwall after going off with a cut on the head shortly before halftime.

But he returned to lead the fightback for United, who had fallen behind to a 27th minute goal by Darren Morgan. Danny Wallace equalised in the 65th minute before Hughes netted the winner against the team United thrashed 5-1 at home in September.

United rose two places to 15th in the table while Millwall, who have won only once in their last 18 league matches, stayed third from bottom.

State resumes control of construction work for Olympics

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A major reorganisation for better state control of costs associated with the 1994 Winter Olympics was announced Friday.

There has been heated debate in Norway because costs estimates for the Olympics soared from the (\$277 million) in 1983 to around \$1.08 billion presented by the site committee late last year. Following a government meet-

ing Friday, Culture Minister Einar Eide said that the state will now assume control of a new company responsible for the Olympic construction projects and control of costs.

The city of Lillehammer, the main site of the games, will get majority say in another new company to oversee the operation and subsequent use of the Olympic facilities.

Lillehammer's Olympic organising company, under Gerhard Heiberg, had until now controlled all preparation for the games. The group remains responsible for running the games, set for Feb. 12-27, 1994.

Heiberg also will head a seven-member coordinating body that will be ultimately responsible for the games.

Becker looks for number one spot

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Boris Becker's hunt for the number one ranking resumes at the \$500,000 Belgian indoor championships next week, though the competition will be softer than expected.

Becker, well rested after sitting out West German's Davis Cup win over the Netherlands last week, was slated to get tough opposition from Sweden's Stefan Edberg and U.S. veteran Jimmy Connors in the struggling association of tennis professionals event.

But Edberg pulled a stomach muscle in the Australian Open final against top-ranked Ivan Lendl and Connors injured his wrist in a first-round loss in Milan's ATP event earlier this week.

"In any case, there will be several players worth watching," said organizer Adrien Vanden Eede.

Becker announced he would play doubles Monday with fellow West German Eric Jelen and start

singles Tuesday, instead of Wednesday as is usual.

Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir, Austrian Horst Skoff and Swiss Jacob Hlasek should somewhat ease the loss of the injured stars at Brussels.

To keep up the credibility of its fledgling tour, the ATP is looking hard for replacements to lure fans to the 6,000-capacity Forest National Hall.

But late Friday afternoon, officials still had no firm list of players. Emilio Sanchez of Spain, West German Karl-Uwe Steeb and Andre Agassi of the United States were possible last-minute.

Late in the 1988 season, six of the eight seeds withdrew with injury, and the championship hardly caused a stir. The event has been moved to the beginning of the season, in hopes players would be fitter.

Vanden Eede said the ATP, in its maiden year organizing the tour, was doing its utmost to help.

GOREN BRIDGE

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A TAHAMANI HURSH
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3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Should you draw trumps first or go about setting up your side-suit tricks? If you have a lot of enemy cards to force out, it is usually correct to delay drawing trumps.

West's jump to four hearts, even in the face of partner's strong bidding, was the height of optimism. After all, South did not open with a demand bid and North held only one sure working card—and no ruffing value.

Declarer ruffed the second round of clubs and cashed the ace-king of diamonds before surrendering a trick in that suit as West discarded the nine of spades. South ruffed the club return and led a spade, taken by West's ace. Another club, presenting a useless ruff-stuff, now completed declarer's diamond. Ruffing in hand or high on the table would have been fruitless, so declarer tried the table's seven. East's nine of hearts forced declarer to overruff with the ten, and South tried to split out the hearts by cashing the ace-king. The end result was down three.

For the contract to succeed, declarer needed to find West with the ace of spades and 3-2 breaks in both red suits. After ruffing the second trick, declarer should have immediately ducked a diamond. Declarer can ruff the club return and must then lead a spade. West can grab the spade and force declarer with another club, but South is in control. The ace and king of hearts are cashed, and the king of spades serves as an entry to dummy to use the queen of trumps to draw the last enemy trump. Now declarer can return to hand with a diamond and claim the contract when that suit breaks favorably.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Speech sound
- 2 Carpenter's tool
- 3 "A man with..."
- 4 Quasichuan
- 5 Clansman, dye
- 6 Start of a statement
- 7 Ring count
- 8 Verve
- 9 Red root
- 10 Spring bloom
- 11 St. Paul's static abbr.
- 12 So, there's it
- 13 Conclusion of statement
- 14 Not any
- 15 Dance that takes two
- 16 Criticism
- 17 Terminates
- 18 Labor group
- 19 Dances and Knight

DOWN

- 1 Elevate
- 2 As to
- 3 Use radar
- 4 Critique
- 5 BR
- 6 Faithful
- 7 Op.
- 8 Ball
- 9 Chemical ending

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

ACROSS

- 10 Obliterate
- 11 Clow
- 12 Eagle
- 13 Apparel
- 14 Shrug
- 15 Spring shrub
- 16 Beautiful creature
- 17 Lament of
- 18 Carpenter and soldier
- 19 Mountain
- 20 Vacuum tube
- 21 Track exhaust
- 22 Wise Christian
- 23 A Delle
- 24 Kefauver
- 25 WWII ships
- 26 Announcement
- 27 Reflected sound
- 28 Nasty kid
- 29 Sullen
- 30 Fibrous tissue

DOWN

- 1 Flat money
- 2 Board game
- 3 Chief
- 4 Pathway
- 5 Swims
- 6 Permit use
- 7 "The Love"
- 8 Near the stars

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of this month's best days when you can dissolve almost any opposition with a smile or kind word and make great headway with your most desired project through intelligent action.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be prepared for some changes in friendships and social groups. This is the time to go on that interesting jaunt with your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go along with those financial and business plans of a resourceful associate. Arrive at a new understanding with family about practical interests.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Organize today's social activities to take in as many group activities as possible. Delight your attachment by taking to the outside pleasures your love enjoys.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do duties quietly or you will miss out on some fun social activities recreation. Entertain close friends at your residence.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Arrange your funds so you can enjoy many social pleasures. Be very direct and straightforward with your attachment now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do whatever will make your daily activities easiest to do and most efficient. Large public events will bring you the most social enjoyment now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take as many jaunts as possible with interesting friends. Do something especially glamorous to surprise and please your attachment.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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Ligachev: Ruling party to play leading role in Soviet society

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Yegor Ligachev, the leading voice among Soviet Communist Party hard-liners, says the party will continue to play the leading role in Soviet society.

Ligachev, speaking in a television interview with the U.S. network ABC in Moscow said: "Our party does not give up its leading role in society, it does not give up its role as the ruling party."

However, Ligachev, who has been accused of resisting President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, denied he was a conservative.

"You shouldn't interpret Ligachev as an all-powerful man, no one man is capable of stopping development in our society," he said. "I know that Ligachev has been called a conservative. I must say I am not a radical, I am not a conservative. I am a realist."

ABC said Ligachev, the Soviet agriculture commission chief, sees himself as a protector of traditional communism who fears the pace of reform could destroy his country.

In the latest move toward reforming Soviet politics, the party

Wednesday agreed at a three-day plenary session of the policy-making Central Committee to surrender its 70-year-old power monopoly.

"I am concerned about leaps and zig-zags," Ligachev said. He added, "If I didn't enjoy the confidence of the party, I would quit."

Gorbachev said Friday he intended to press for more reforms once he has implemented the limits on Communist Party power he pushed through this week.

Gorbachev said he had achieved everything he set out to do at a three-day meeting of the Central Committee.

"Once we have solidified this phase, we will move on," Gorbachev told reporters before heading into a meeting Friday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who was in Moscow for talks on arms reduction

proposals.

The platform approved by the Central Committee opened the possibility of alternative political parties. But officials have revealed little about its changes in Communist economic policy, which will be critical for salvaging the Soviet Union's shaky economy.

Gorbachev has said economic difficulties could damage his political reform programme.

A top Gorbachev aide, shedding light on the platform, said Friday it accepted the private ownership of factories.

That policy would reject Marxist doctrine in place since the Soviet Union's creation following the Bolshevik Revolution.

Gorbachev aide Nikolai Petrakov also said in the interview with the Soviet News Agency TASS that he personally favours denationalisation of state businesses and the possibility of foreign firms buying stock in Soviet enterprises.

Petrakov is an economist "who was subjected to sharp criticism in 1971 for defending market methods of directing the Soviet

economy," according to TASS. He became a Gorbachev aide last month.

He said the economic section of the platform is based on "many forms including cooperative and individual property."

In Marxist terminology, "means of production" are factories and equipment.

Current Soviet economic policy demands state-owned enterprises produce a reasonable "profit" that includes funds re-invested in the firm.

Petrakov said that "in between state and private property, there is a whole spectrum of intermediate forms, including cooperative and stock ownership, which should be given the green light."

"The recently expressed fear that the partial denationalisation of the economy of the USSR will bring the selling of the country to new capitalists is simply absurd," he said.

Petrakov also said that in his opinion, stockholders could be individuals, Soviet businesses and banks, and even, in the future, foreign firms.

Moscow to send MiG-29s to Cuba

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze confirmed Saturday that the Soviet Union was shipping MiG-29 fighters to Cuba but denied that Havana posed a threat to the United States or any other country in the region.

"We are supplying these aircraft to Cuba. Of course the U.S. does not welcome it, but we have a legitimate right to do so," Shevardnadze told a news conference devoted to Friday's talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"Cuba poses no threat or danger to the United States or any other country in that region, and that includes the MiG-29s," he said.

Shevardnadze said the solution to the problem of the MiGs and of other contentious issues would come through an overall improvement in relations between Washington and Havana.

"We should promote confidence building in that region and promote normalisation of relations between the United States and Cuba," he added. "This is the main line of approach."

Shevardnadze did not say how many aircraft the Soviet Union had supplied to Cuba. Published reports in the United States, citing U.S. intelligence sources, have said Moscow might be sending up to 36 aircraft.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union had supplied MiG-23s to Cuba in the past but these were obsolete and had to be replaced.

"It is only natural for a sovereign state to want to get new, more sophisticated material," he added.

A joint U.S.-Soviet statement, released later Saturday, supported a call by Central American presidents for an end to all military assistance for "irregular forces" within the region by outside states.

The two sides also undertook to respect the results of "free and fair elections" in Nicaragua.

The statement said the United States and the Soviet Union stressed their backing for a negotiated settlement to the conflict in El Salvador and pledged support for United Nations efforts to secure a ceasefire and renewed negotiations.

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S. Koreans protest against new party

SEOUL (AP) — Hundreds of students shouting anti-government and anti-U.S. slogans fought riot police Saturday with firebombs and rocks to protest the creation of a new governing party.

Shouting "crush the conservative dictatorship," about 700 students rushed out of Seoul's Joong Ang University and pelted riot police with hundreds of firebombs and rocks.

About 600 riot police stopped the students at the school's main gate, firing barrages of tear gas. No police figures on injuries and arrests were available.

The fighting erupted after about 1,000 riot police sealed off Korea University in eastern Seoul to block an anti-government rally involving radical students from major schools in the capital.

Before clashing with police, the students, who had gathered at the school by evading police checks in the streets, burned a symbol of the new governing Democratic Liberal Party.

Radical students and dissidents have stepped up violent protests against the party, formed by a merger of President Roh Tae-woo's governing party and two conservative opposition groups led by Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil.

In leaflets scattered Saturday, the students claimed the merger was instigated by the United States to establish a pro-U.S. government in South Korea.

They also demanded the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops based in South Korea under a mutual defense pact and shouted anti-U.S. slogans.

The new party will hold at least 210 of the 299 seats in the National Assembly, enough to change the nation's constitution at will.

Before the merger, the single-house assembly had been controlled by the three opposition parties, led by Kim Dae-Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy, which now is the only remaining opposition group.

On Friday, delegates from the three parties formally endorsed their merger and ratified the new party's platform, constitution and basic policies.

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Reagan to testify in Poindexter trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan will give a videotaped deposition for the trial of a foreign policy adviser in what will be Reagan's first in-depth questioning on the Iran-contra affair since he left office.

Reagan Friday consented to a videotaped deposition in which lawyers for his former aide, John Poindexter, will ask him 154 questions, plus follow-up questions.

The former national security adviser is charged with conspiracy, two counts of obstructing Congress and two counts of making false statements for his role in the biggest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president.

The Iran-contra affair involved the clandestine sale of U.S. arms to Iran and then the use of profits from those deals to arm the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, fighting to topple the Managua government.

The subject areas during the questioning will include Reagan's knowledge of his former aide Oliver North's activities on behalf of the contras and whether Reagan authorized written responses to Congress relating to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The charges Poindexter is facing are in connection with those responses to Congress.

Details on the timing and other arrangements for the videotaped testimony will be worked out Monday in a hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Harold

Greene, who will preside at the Poindexter trial, scheduled to start Feb. 20.

Reagan proposed to answer the questions on Feb. 16 in Los Angeles.

Reagan said in a court filing that he recognizes the courts have a responsibility to protect Poindexter's rights. But his lawyers also invoke Reagan's right to invoke executive privilege to specific questions during the deposition.

Indicating they expect representatives of President George Bush's administration to be permitted to attend the deposition, Reagan's lawyers said they will "defer to the incumbent president" regarding issues of executive privilege on national security or foreign affairs.

Greene will attend the deposition to rule on disputes. Claiming executive privilege to specific questions could result in halting the deposition in mid-stream and taking the matter through court appeals. Or, more likely, the deposition would continue while the specific questions at issue remain unanswered, pending appeals.

The "videotape deposition format will provide an appropriate mechanism... to protect sensitive, classified national security information and confidential deliberations," Reagan's lawyers said.

The edited videotape would be shown at Poindexter's trial.

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Japanese undecided as election enters last lap

TOKYO (R) — Embattled Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu slammed the opposition Socialists "irresponsible" tax policies Saturday as polls showed almost one Japanese voter in three still has not decided how to vote on Feb. 18.

With the general election campaign entering its final week, Kaifu went on the offensive during a stump tour of western Japan in hopes of convincing the "undecided" to back his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

For the first time since the LDP's formation in the 1950s, the party faces the possibility that it will lose its majority in the powerful lower house, a replay of the upper house defeat it suffered last July.

Kaifu directed his heaviest fire at the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the largest opposition group, and its plan to reintroduce indirect taxes abolished last year.

"Even the other opposition parties are against this plan," he told voters in a town near Osaka. "Is it possible that you are going to hand over a heavy responsibility (to a party) that is irresponsible?"

JSP leader Takako Doi's recent proposal to abolish an unpopular three per cent sales tax and reinstate the commodity tax has become a major election issue

which is further dividing an already fragmented opposition.

The Democratic Socialist Party, one of the JSP's potential coalition partners if the LDP loses its majority, has publicly questioned Doi's tax plan.

The Socialists are not fielding enough candidates to stand a chance of winning outright victory, but have said they would seek to rule with other non-Communist parties. With just one week to go, all the signs were that the election would be very close.

The Sankei Shinbun newspaper released a survey Saturday that shows 31.3 per cent of 3,000 voters it polled across Japan would vote for the LDP.

But a combined 33.6 per cent said they would back one of the opposition parties, with 21.9 per cent throwing their support to JSP candidates.

However the poll showed that almost 30 per cent were still undecided on how they will vote — a factor that could swing the election either way.

Another survey Friday also pointed to voter uncertainty. A leading economic daily, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, reported that 32.4 per cent of some 6,300 voters nationwide said in telephone interviews they had yet to decide which party or candidate to support.

WHO to launch bid to halt AIDS spread in E. Europe

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) is planning a campaign to halt the spread of AIDS in Eastern Europe, where authorities have been reluctant to regard it as a health problem, officials have said.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, head of the U.N. Agency's AIDS programme, said the region made up the "new frontiers of the global epidemic" that has claimed hundreds of thousands of victims, mostly in the Americas, Africa and West Europe.

He said Romania was thought to be the worst hit country in the area because of the many children infected by contaminated blood and needles.

But he said WHO also was concerned about signs that Polish drug users have become infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, that leads to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Mann said a WHO survey at the end of 1989 showed 40 per cent of registered drug users in Bangkok carried the virus, compared with only 1 per cent at the end of 1987.

Dr. David Heymann, a WHO specialist who returned late Thursday from a visit to Bucharest, said about one third of 1,500 Romanian children screened for the disease in orphanages and hospitals were infected.

By the start of February, he

said Romanian authorities had reported 74 full-blown cases, 50 of them children. He added the figures were likely to increase once screening was introduced on a wider scale.

Mann told journalists that another WHO team would travel to Romania next week to initiate a more detailed programme.

He said priorities included improved medical care and sterilisation of needles; counselling for victims and their families; more training for health staff and a national survey to determine the true extent of AIDS.

He said WHO already sent 100,000 screening kits to Romania as initial assistance to authorities.

Mann also pointed out the need for a nationwide education programme to publicise the risks of AIDS, long concealed by the government of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

"Romania shows the dangers of the silence on AIDS," Mann said.

A private organisation, Doctors of the World, earlier this week said Romania was gripped by the first known epidemic of childhood AIDS, caused by constant re-use of needles and contaminated blood transfusions.

Mann said that by the end of 1989, some 300 AIDS cases had been reported in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Albania was the only country in the region with no registered cases.

U.S., 3 Andean nations complete drug summit pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has completed an agreement with three South American countries that commits the United States to broad assistance in countering their economic reliance on drugs, an official has said.

In addition to the \$423-million anti-drug package President George Bush is proposing for Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, the United States will pledge to help track illegal export of U.S.-produced firearms used by drug dealers and to crack down on drug-related chemical exports, officials said.

The four-nation agreement also calls for Bush to press other Western nations to provide economic aid to the three Andean nations, said a South American diplomat familiar with the document.

The statement has been prepared for signature by the presidents of the four countries when they meet at the Feb. 15 drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

"We've got agreement," on the final wording, said Michael Skol, deputy assistant secretary of state

for South American affairs, Friday.

He described it as "a very comprehensive document of cooperation on the drug issue," significant for its recognition of rights and responsibilities of producer and consumer countries "without finger-pointing."

The U.S. portion of the document conforms to Bush's national drug strategy, he said. The agreement covers interdiction, military cooperation, economic alternatives to the drug trade, and efforts to get other countries' aid in the anti-drug effort.

"There's promise of asking for increased spending," by Congress, but no dollar amounts in the document, he said.

For the second year of his national anti-drug strategy, Bush last month proposed \$423 million for fiscal year 1991 in overall drug-related spending for the Andean countries, including military, law enforcement and economic assistance. Some \$206 million of that sum represents a rise in spending, as part of the five-year \$2.2 billion plan.

No U.S. troop cuts planned in Pacific before talks with allies

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will have close consultations with its Asian and Pacific allies before making any final decision on reducing troops in the region, a senior U.S. defence official has said.

"At this point there is a lot of speculation... much of it wrong," the official said. "We frankly haven't made a decision on what sort of personnel strength levels we would maintain in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines."

"That will not be done until we get input from friends and allies on what force structure and strategy in the region should be," he told reporters.

The official, who asked not to be identified, spoke a day before

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney begins a two-week trip to Hawaii, South Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Japan.

Cheney is going abroad as a cost-conscious Congress puts pressure on the Defence Department to cut forces around the world, including some of the 45,000 troops in South Korea, and to solicit more financial support from Japan for 50,000 U.S. troops based there.

But Cheney "will not be making announcements on any troop reductions on this trip," the official said.

Cheney will arrive in Hawaii Saturday for a rest stop that will include visits to U.S. military facilities, before flying on to

Korea Wednesday. He will hold talks with senior officials in Seoul during the three-day stop. He then travels to Hong Kong on Feb. 17, the Philippines from Feb. 18-20 and Japan on Feb. 20-24.

The defence official said Cheney would discuss the importance of the U.S. bases in the Philippines but would not become involved in negotiations on the future of those bases, now due to begin next month.

Washington has sent mixed signals on Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, but has admitted that the cost of moving the giant bases would be high if an agreement cannot be reached to keep them in the Philippines.

C8LUMN

U.K. Boy Scouts to admit girls

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Boy Scouts have said they have decided to break their 83-year tradition and admit girls, who sometimes find the activities in the Guiding movement a little too tame.

The leader of the Guides, who count Queen Elizabeth II as their most famous former member, was less than thrilled at the announcement and said she hoped the Scouts didn't plan to raid her organisation for members.

Gareth Morrison, chief of Britain's 680,000-member Boy Scout Organisation, said local scout chapters will be able to choose whether to admit girls because some "want nothing to do with girls." No chapters would be forced to go co-ed, he said.

"We are aware that in some places there is a pressing need for it and we are anxious to meet that need. It is an important move and a move in the right direction," Morrison said.

Nicola Lowe, 14, turned down in October while she and two friends applied to join the scout group in Wark, North-east England, said she would reapply. "I was in the Guides for a little while but I thought it was really boring," she said.

Global weather

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	10	13	Cloudy
ATHENS	13	17	55 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	18	21	22 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	25	34 Clear
BELMOPAS	18	20	23 Partly
CAIRO	18	21	24 Clear
CHICAGO	01	05	08 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	05	08 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	03	07	09 Cloudy
GENEVA	01	03	11 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	21	20 Clear
ISTANBUL	07	08	08 Cloudy
LONDON	03	07	08 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	08	19	57 Cloudy
MADRID	08	16	21 Cloudy
MECCA	17	25	28 Cloudy
MONTREAL	01	04	04 Cloudy
MOSCOW	0	3	10 Clear
NEW DELHI	14	27	27 Cloudy
NEW YORK	07	15	17 Cloudy
PARIS	08	12	22 Cloudy
ROME	08	17	22 Cloudy
SYDNEY	18	24	26 Cloudy
TOKYO	01	04	07 Cloudy
VIENNA	01	03	11 Cloudy

X — Indicates missing information.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etessou

HIT PARADE

By William Cumbe

ACROSS

1 Can. time zone

2 Letters

3 Lanthanides' org.

4 Use a drink

5 Near grade

6 Smear

7 Pubes

8 Big cat

9 Following

10 Pubes

11 Reviewer's work

12 Pubes

13 Place — (Pyrenees)

14 Buy place

15 Zoroastrian

16 Big cat

17 Upright

18 Old city

19 Big Apple

20 Home for Porky

DOWN

1 Darterous

2 Vaughan and

3 Gunner's place

4 LA school letters

5 Scatter official

6 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"